The Hundreds
OF
BUCKINGHAM.
Buckinghamshire.
RTHAMPTONSHIRE
Holdbath
Pt of Lillingston Dayrell Parish
Pt of Bitlesden Needles Hole Parish
Luffield Abbey
Extra Parochial
Brock Hall
Red Ditches
Stowe
Westbury Parish
Hedges
Lillingston Dayrell
Warwick Castle
Bitlesden
Park
Wood
Knightons Wood
Green
Garrett's Fm
Stowe
Park
Eversham Fm
Tenlands
Dyers Gap
Thornton Hall
Westbury
Mill
Shalstone House
Stratford
PART OF OXFORDSHIRE
New Inn
Corinthian Arch
Leckhampstead
Foscott Woods
Foscott
Manor Ho
Maids Moreton
BUCKINGHAM
Water Stratford
Radcliffe
Hunts Mill
Buffers Hill
Thornborough
Thornborough Hill
Tingewick
Buckingham
Parish
Bourton Bridge
Folly Fm
Colthcot Lane
Chantry of
Leckhampstead
Boltchampton
Black Fields
Potash Fm
Thornton Hall
Brook Kiln
RIVER OUSE
RIVER
Great
Ouse

Preston Passett
Clutterhoe
Billesdon House
Cowley
Duggers Fm
Claydon Plant
Steeple Claydon
Twyford
Twyford Mill
Twyford Lo.
Portway Ho.
Charndon Mill
Part of Twyford Parish
Hamlet of Charndon
Gibbon Common
Marsh Gibbon
Edgcott
Manor Fm
The Marsh Field
or
Gibbon Common
Adstock
Addington
Addington Plain
Padbury Mill
Padbury Hill Fm
Westhill Fm
Claydon House
Claydon Pinds
Blackmoor Hill
Stiffmans Fm
Shepherds Fm
Dunsty Hill
Thorpe Hill
Shighouse
Bridle Road
White Bridle
Worthy
Stockley Fm
Clerries
Lo Farm
Bates Fm
Dickens
Cowley Lo.
Lyons Br.
Seven Stars
Swan & Pigs
Pound End
Smarts Fm
Gibbon Common
Marsh Gibbon
Tank
Dunsty Hill
Thorpe Hill
Shighouse
Claydon Pinds
Claydon House
Addington Plain
Addington
Adstock
Hanover Fm
Padbury Mill
Westhill Fm
Padbury Hill Fm
Preston Passett
Clutterhoe
Billesdon House
Cowley
Duggers Fm
Claydon Plant
Steeple Claydon
Twyford
Twyford Mill
Twyford Lo.
Portway Ho.
Charndon Mill
Part of Twyford Parish
Hamlet of Charndon
Gibbon Common
Marsh Gibbon
Edgcott
Manor Fm
The Marsh Field
or
Gibbon Common
Boundary of County
of Hundreds
Roads
Rivers
Canal
Scale of Miles
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
ASHENDON HUNDRED
OTHO

L. 29

Leisure-Hour Notes on

HISTORICAL BUCKINGHAM

J. T. HARRISON
1909

An account of the

TOWN AND MANOR OF WINSLOW

A. CLEAR
1894

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CASTLE STREET, BUCKINGHAM *(from an old engraving).*

Leisure-Hour Notes

ON

Historical Buckingham

TREATING MAINLY OF THE HALF CENTURY SINCE 1857
WHEN THE REV. H. ROUNDELL PUBLISHED
HIS "LECTURE" ON BUCKINGHAM;

AND INCLUDING A FEW INTERESTING LOCAL ITEMS,
NOT HITHERTO RECORDED,
BUT NOW VOUCHED FOR BY THE COMPILER,

J. T. HARRISON,
"THE POPLARS," BUCKINGHAM.

1909.

And departing leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."
—*Longfellow.*

London:
HENRY GRAY, GENEALOGICAL RECORD OFFICE AND BOOK STORE,
1, CHURCHFIELD ROAD EAST, ACTON, W.

Buckingham:
WALFORD & SON, PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS, MARKET HILL.

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BROWNE WILLIS, Esq., THE BUCKINGHAM HISTORIAN.

Dr. Browne Willis, the great historian of, and benefactor to, our County Town, published his book in 1755, and for all time it will be the standard for reference as to the Borough history up to that date.

Many copies of Dr. Browne Willis's History of Buckingham are known to be existing still ; amongst others, there is the copy presented to the Corporation in 1877 by G. A. U. Nelson, Esq., and one in the Reading Room, the gift of Dr. Howard in 1908. Two copies are owned by Mr. J. T. Harrison, one by F. W. Denchfield, Esq., C.C., one by Alfred Stowe, Esq., and three by Mr. A. A. Walford.

Mr. Roundell published, in 1857, a "Memoir of Browne Willis, L.L.D., Historian of Buckingham."

The following verses from the "St. James' Magazine" of April, 1763, give an excellent idea of his character and habits, and we are glad to be able to supplement same with a wood-cut of the celebrated antiquarian :—

"Whilome there dwelt near Buckingham,
That famous country town,
At a known place, hight Whaddon Chase,
A Squire of odd renown.

A Druid's sacred form he bore,
His robes a girdle bound,
Deep vers'd he was in antient lore,
In customs old, profound.

High on a hill his mansion stood,
But gloomy, dark within,
Here mangled books, as bones and blood
Lie in a giant's den.

A walking Alm'nack he appears,
Stept from some mouldy wall,
Worn out of use thro' dust and years,
Like 'scutcheons in his hall.

His car himself he did provide,
To stand in double stead,
That it should carry him alive,
And bury him when dead.

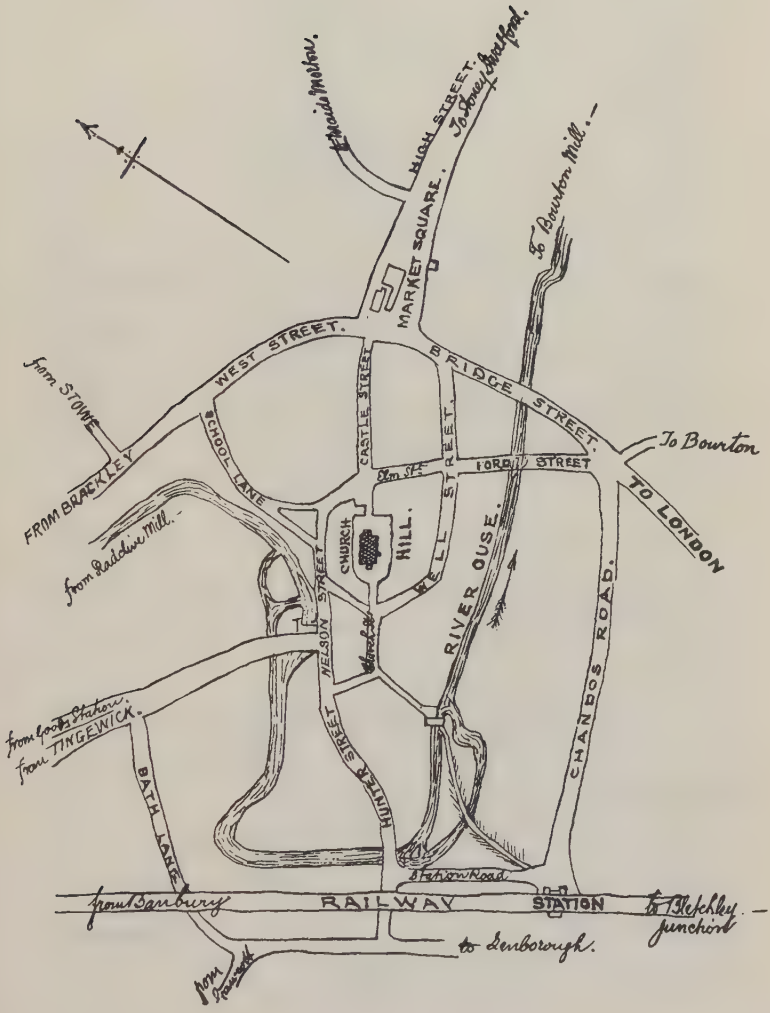
By rusty coins old Kings he'd trace,
And know their air and mien,
King Alfred he knew well by face,
Tho' George he ne'er had seen.

Whene'er the fatal day shall come,
For come, alas ! it must,
When this good Squire must stay at home,
And turn to antique dust ;

The solemn dirge, ye owls prepare,
Ye bats more hoarsely screak,
Croak, all ye ravens, round the bier,
And all ye church-mice squeak."

† Plan of Buckingham in 1610,
By John Speed.

See page 57, *re* St. Rumbold's Well, and notice, for situation of same, the little round building on this plan above the pointer, with stream trickling down into the river.



PLAN OF BUCKINGHAM STREETS IN 1909.

PREFACE.

In launching these "Records" of sundry incidents connected with our Ancient Borough, I am only hoping to enhance the value of the already numerous publications on Buckingham, from which quotations are made; and if errors have inadvertently crept into these pages, I must apologise in advance for same.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the kind assistance given me by numerous friends to whom I have applied for various details, and who will therefore, I trust, accept this paragraph as a record of my thanks for such help.

To find my efforts appreciated by those who take an interest in the history of this loyal Borough is my earnest hope.

J. T. HARRISON,
The Poplars,
Buckingham.

September, 1909.

CHANDOS ROAD (ABOUT 1860).

Historical Buckingham.

THE TOWN.

BUCKINGHAM, 57 miles from London by road, and 60½ miles by rail, is situate in the centre of a great Agricultural district, and on a peninsula formed by the River Ouse, which nearly encompasses it (see plan of the streets). Lyson says it was described as an *Ancient* Borough as early as at the time of the Norman Survey (Domesday Book). The River is crossed by three stone bridges (of which further particulars are given on another page). The main approach to the town from the Railway Station is along the Chandos Road, opened about the year 1854. A number of residences have been built along the route of same (see photo of the first block erected), and now the Royal Latin School is housed there. The original main road from London to Birmingham passes through the town, bordered by telegraph poles carrying about 40 wires, and an underground service of about 100 more, recently laid. Of the six districts into which the Parish and Municipal Borough are divided, the town itself is in three, viz., "The Borough," "Prebend End" and "Bourton-Hold." The district called THE BOROUGH comprises the central portion of the town, including Church Hill, or Castle Hill, Castle Street, West Street, Market Square, North End, &c. The area of the Borough is about 500 acres, assessed to Land Tax at £613. The rateable value of the Borough proper is: buildings, £6360 7s. 8d.; land, £831 12s. 3d. The precinct of PREBEND END anciently formed part of the

endowment of the Prebend of "Sutton-cum-Buckingham" in Lincoln Cathedral. The rateable value of this district is now: buildings, £3251 10s. 0d.; land, £767 9s. 9d. In this part of the town is situate the Old Churchyard, with the site where, prior to 1776, the Old Parish Church stood (see engraving), the Vicarage House, the Yeomanry Hall, the Condensed Peptonised Milk Factory, two large Maltings, and the Railway Station. BOURTON-HOLD district probably had its name from its situation in the immediate vicinity of the "hold" or "keep" of the Castle, on the side towards Bourton. The rateable value of same is: buildings £1021 17s. 2d.; land, £4 10s. 0d.

THE HOUSES generally throughout the town are of brick, with slated or tiled roofs, a few old thatched cottages still surviving. The streets are lighted with ELECTRIC LIGHT since 1905. There is a good public supply of WATER, pumped into a storage reservoir by steam power at Maidsmoreton, and then falling by gravitation into the town. The SANITATION is also modern, with a Sewerage Farm outlet and filtration tanks (see further details on another page). Very good building sand, gravel and limestone are dug within the precincts of the town, and a dove-coloured marble was once worked here by the late Mr. James Harrison, sen., till the abolishing of the duty on foreign marbles (wrought more easily) put an end to the local trade.

For the information of readers who may not be able to refer to "Browne Willis" for the former history of the Borough, we give a copy of the paper read by our late esteemed Vicar, the Rev. F. G. Kiddle, to the members of the Bucks Archæological Society on the occasion of their visit in 1884:—

THE TOWN OF BUCKINGHAM is doubtless of great antiquity. Historians tell us that about A.D. 44 a Roman General under the Emperor Claudius surprised the Britons on the banks of the River Ouse at, or near, Buckingham; and further, on the first spreading of Christianity, in the Saxon times, it became remarkable

as the burying place of Saint Rumbold, who was born at King's Sutton, November 1st, 626, where he also died, appointing his body to rest there the first year, the next two years at Brackley, and at Buckingham for ever after; where, as the historian and antiquarian (Browne Willis) informs us in his interesting history of the County, a shrine was made for him in the Parish Church, to which great resort was made by pilgrims, and many miracles are reported to have been wrought by him there.

The same historian tells us that this town is mentioned in the reign of King Alfred, on his division of the kingdom into Shires, when he fixed on this place as the Capital of his newly-erected County, and that his son, King Edward the Elder, took up his quarters here A.D. 918, caused two forts to be built and garrisoned on either side of the River Ouse, and then, advancing towards the Danes, struck such terror into them that they were glad to make peace. Subsequently to the survey of Domesday Book, in which mention is made of the town, few records are to be found until of more recent date.

We read that in A.D. 1484, Richard III. made a grant to John Grey, of Wilton, of certain moneys "for the food of the King's hawkes secured upon the Castle and Manor of Buckingham."

My learned predecessor, the Rev. H. Roundell, tells us that the Bailiff and Burgesses of the Corporation were summoned in King Edward III.'s time to send three representatives to the Council of Trade held at Westminster by that Prince, and in Henry VII.'s time, County weights and measures were ordered by Act of Parliament to be kept here. He informs us also that the gaol delivery of felons and all County business was transacted here until (as it was supposed), by the influence of Chief-Justice Baldwin (a native of Aylesbury), the Assizes were removed to that town during the reign of Henry VIII.

In 1553, Queen Mary granted a Charter of Incorporation to this Borough; also a second Charter, with increased privileges, was granted by Charles II., A.D. 1684, under the authority of which the government of this Borough was conducted until the new "Municipal Corporations Act" came into force in 1835. (See account of these Charters on another page.)

"The year 1568 is memorable in the annals of our town from the fact that, on the 25th day of August" (as we learn from a Memo.

in the Corporation Book of that date), "the high and mighty Princess, Queen Elizabeth, came in progress to the Burrow of Buckingham, and at the utmost part of the limits of the liberties of the Burrow, the Bayliff and the 12 principal Burgesses of the said Burrow made their most humble submission, and received her Grace, whereupon her Highness did admit the said Bayliff to be her Chamberlain within the said Burrow by delivering him one white wand, and to pay proper honour to the said Burrow her Majesty had, in a most triumphant manner, her sword royal and maces bourne and trumpets blowne, until she came to the Mansion House of the Rector or Prebendary of the said Burrow (see chapter on the Manor House), where Her Highness rested for dinner, and afterwards Her Grace proceeded forward to the town of Bicester."

During the civil wars of the seventeenth century, Buckingham, unlike all the other towns in the County, refused to espouse the side of the Parliament, and from a document in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, we learn that "this Corporation preserved its integrity, and was eminently serviceable in assisting the University and City of Oxford, which were the chief support and assistance of King Charles I."

Some records are preserved to us of this time, but we pass on to mention the great fire of 1725. In a handbill circulated at the time, it was stated that 138 dwelling houses and a great many barns and stables and other out-buildings, were totally destroyed, and that the loss, over and above all money recovered from any insurance office whatsoever, amounted to £32,682 13s. 6d. Unhappily for the appearance of the town, the Corporation did not apply for an Act of Parliament whereby the rebuilding of the houses would be *regulated* (a step strongly urged by Browne Willis, of Whaddon Hall, to whom we have already referred). The mention of this name induces me to quote once again Mr. Roundell's words: "Mr. Willis," he says, "must ever be reckoned amongst the best friends Buckingham ever had. By his exertions a large sum of money, of which he contributed the major part himself, was expended on the repair of the Church Tower, the spire of which had fallen down on the 7th February, 1699. He originated the plan for building the present Gaol, of which he witnessed the completion by Lord Cobham. He procured the restoration of the Assizes to Buckingham, strenuously resisted an

intended removal of them to Aylesbury, and persuaded both the Bishop of Lincoln and the Archdeacon of Buckingham to hold their visitations here. Indeed, he devoted his best energies through full half-a-century to restore to Buckingham its ancient honours." (See Mr. Roundell's "Memoirs of Browne Willis," published in 1857.)

Buckingham is in the NORTHERN DIVISION of the County, and in the DIOCESE OF OXFORD, the patronage of the living being now in the hands of the Bishop of Oxford (by an exchange effected some few years ago with the patron of Adstock, Bucks).

For a modern, comprehensive and concise account of the town, we reproduce a paper contributed to the "Christian World" in 1897 by the late Miss Farningham:—

A QUIET TOWN.

A quiet town in a quiety county is Buckingham, pleasantly situated on the Ouse, and half embowered in some of the most beautiful trees of England. At one time in its history it was a place of great importance, but it has loved peace more than push, and has therefore been left a little out of the scramble for numbers in which other places have been engaged. It is not a sleepy town by any means; it appears to be before its larger neighbours in such things as electric lighting and motor-cars; but it declines to run itself out of breath, in competition, and hears quite tranquilly and without jealousy of the leaps and bounds by which other towns have grown, while it has but an increase of one or two to show from census to census. It is a quaint, cosy town in which to live. There are delightful old houses shut away in walled gardens; there are curious devices among its buildings, especially one corkscrew chimney, the like of which is not to be found anywhere; and its old gaol, with square, embattled towers, which is now used as the house of the fire-engine. The Parish Church occupies a splendid position, and is worthy of its site. From all parts of the town its embattled tower and picturesque spire draw all eyes to itself. It stands on a mound where formerly Buckingham Castle stood, and it commands beautiful views in all directions. A copy of Raphael's

picture of the Transfiguration forms the alterpiece. It was the gift of the Marquis of Buckingham. There was an old church which fell to the ground by degrees in the 17th century, and which stood near the spot where the present edifice, built about 1780, now stands. Another notable building is the Town Hall, and another, the ancient Vicarage. The river almost makes an island of the town, for it surrounds it on three sides, and the Ouse is a pleasant river to have near one, for it babbles of its birth in the well at Brackley among the Northamptonshire meadows, and of its delightful journey by buttercups and daisies, rushes and forget-me-nots, hawthorns and chestnuts, welcomed everywhere by village and hamlet, by men who walk by it, and birds who sing to it, and children who love its gentle music. In Buckinghamshire its course is a quiet one, but before reaching the Wash it receives the tributary waters of the Tare near Stony Stratford, the Ousel at Newport Pagnell, the Ivel at Templeford, the Cam at Stretham, the Lark at Prickwillow-bridge, and the Little Ouse at Brandon-bridge. At the September Equinox it loses its gentleness, and has a bore or eagre as dangerous as any. But that is when it has got far away from Buckingham. It is flowing peaceably enough under its three bridges there, where it has only just begun its course of 140 miles, and where it assists, with leisurely docility, the flour mills and other industries of the town.

Much of the business, as well as the importance, of Buckingham has declined of late years. It is still nominally the county town, but Aylesbury has in most matters supplanted it. Once it had a wool market second to none, and large tanneries also. Its work has always had reference to its quiet agricultural surroundings. The newest factory is one for peptonised milk. There may still be seen in and around the place the picture which Cowper rendered immortal—

> Yon cottager who weaves at her own door,
> Pillows and bobbins all her little store ;
> Content though mean, and cheerful if not gay ;
> Shuffling her threads about the livelong day :
> Just earns a scanty pittance, and at night
> Lies down secure, her heart and pocket light.

The picture might as well stand for to-day as for the times in which Cowper wrote, although the lace-making has been worse than it used to be, and the pittance earned by it more scanty. The work is greatly liked by Buckinghamshire villagers, who could

be made very happy if only pillow lace became fashionable in this Diamond Jubilee year. Many ladies, and some among the highest of the land, are doing their best to make it so, and certainly no lace is more delicately beautiful.

Buckingham might be called a town of avenues, for there are several of them, and the trees which form them are very fine. There is a favourite avenue leading from the town to the village of Maids Moreton; but a finer one still is in the opposite direction, and leads to Stowe House, the residence of the now extinct Dukes of Buckingham. The Stowe Park avenue is really magnificent, and a visit to the historical old house where once Queen Victoria stayed, and where the Comte de Paris died, would be productive of much interest and pleasure. Indeed, the town and neighbourhood of Buckingham are inviting places to those who have been bearing the burden and heat of the day in big, noisy cities.

MARIANNE FARNINGHAM.

Unfortunately, in common with many another "very Ancient and Loyal Borough," the trend of modern life to "centralisation" and agglomeration in towns well served with railways, has not increased the number of inhabitants, as the Census returns show, viz.:—

1861	...	...	3,847
1871	...	...	3,703
1881	...	...	3,585
1891	...	...	3,364
1901	...	...	3,151

These figures include the hamlets of Bourton and Gawcott; in Buckingham itself the number is about 2,700.

It may, however, here be mentioned that the town is one of the healthiest in the kingdom, the death-rate for 1908 having been only 5 per 1,000!

THE MANORIAL RIGHTS

of Buckingham once belonged to the family of Brocas (who were then possessed of considerable property in Bourtonhold district), but they are now vested in the Corporation by a lease for 2,000 years, subject to a quit rent of 40/- per annum (which, however, does not seem to have been paid for many years).

THE CORPORATION.

IN the reign of Edward III., the town of Buckingham was governed by a Mayor and two Bailiffs; in that of Henry VIII., by a Bailiff and Burgesses; in the reign of Edward VI., by a Bailiff and eleven Burgesses, but they were not constituted a body corporate till 1554, when Queen Mary (as a reward for their steady adherence to her in the rebellion of the Duke of Northumberland) granted them a Charter of Incorporation by the style of "Bailiff, Principal Burgesses, and Steward." King Charles II. gave them a new Charter (see photo), changing the style of the Corporation to that of "Mayor, Aldermen, and Steward." The latter Charter had been acted upon only four years, however, (says Browne Willis) when the old establishment was revived, and the Corporation continued to act under the former Charter down to the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act in 1835. The originals of these Charters of Queen Mary and Charles II. are preserved in the Council Chamber, and may be seen there through the half-glass door.

The Corporation now consists of a MAYOR, four ALDERMEN and twelve COUNCILLORS, with a Town Clerk and other officers. Meetings are held at six o'clock on the first Monday in every month, except November, when the election of Mayor comes on the 9th annually. There are also special meetings as occasion may require.

It may be interesting here to give a copy from "The London Gazette" of 28th August, 1684, of the festivities indulged in on the formal acceptance by the Borough of the Charles II. Charter:—

"*Buckingham, August 23rd.*—The 20th instant, Sir Richard Temple came hither with the New Charter which His Majesty hath been graciously pleased to grant to this Corporation, having been met upon the way at Mr. Edmund Verney's House, at East Claydon, (about 5 miles from hence), by the late Bayliff and

THE CHARTER OF CHARLES II. (1658).

Burgesses on horseback, and near 200 Persons of Quality of the Neighbourhood, and Principal Inhabitants of this Borough. Being come within the limits of the Corporation, Sir Richard delivered the Charter to Mr. Thomas Hillesden, the late Bayliff and present Mayor, who accompanied him in his Coach to the Town, and at the entry thereof, getting on horseback, rode at the head of the Company to the Town Hall (the Bells ringing, Waits and other Musick playing, and the Streets being crowded with People, who expressed great satisfaction), where the Charter was read and the Mayor sworn, who afterwards swore the Steward and Aldermen; and then Sir Richard Temple declared to them the great Honor and Advantages they received by their New Charter, the King having been pleased to Incorporate them by the name of the Mayor and Aldermen of the Loyal Borough and Parish of Buckingham, and to grant them two new Fairs, the one on St. Matthew's day, the other on the second Monday after the Epiphany, and every Saturday a Market for Live Cattle, and many other additions to their former Privileges. Whereupon they all expressed their duty and thankfulness to His Majesty for these, his Royal favours to them; and after this the Mayor and Aldermen gave all the Gentlemen a very handsome Entertainment."

List of Mayors of the Borough,

Brought on from list in Mr. Roundell's Lecture (1857) up to the present time:—

1857	Edward Parrott	1883	J. T. Harrison
1858	Ditto	1884	T. Ridgway
1859	H. M. Bradford	1885	E. H. Ridgway
1860	Ditto	1886	Ditto
1861	Richard Elkington	1887	Ditto
1862	Ditto	1888	Geo. Harrison
	(By his own casting vote.)	1889	Ditto
1863	S. M. Allen	1890	J. Marshall
1864	Ditto	1891	Ditto
1865	Ditto	1892	W. J. Gough
1866	Henry Thorpe, sen.	1893	Ditto
1867	Ditto	1894	Hy. Thorpe
1868	Ditto	1895	Ditto
1869	James Harrison, jun.	1896	Ditto
1870	Ditto	1897	Jno. Harper
1871	S. M. Allen	1898	Ditto

1872	Henry Hearn	1899	T. Boyse
1873	F. Humfrey, sen.	1900	C. A. Bennett
1874	Ditto	1901	Ditto
1875	George Bennett	1902	A. C. Rogers
1876	Ditto	1903	Ditto
1877	T. Ridgway	1904	Ditto
1878	Ditto	1905	T. Hawes
1879	E. H. Ridgway	1906	Ditto
1880	J. W. Thorpe	1907	F. Adcock
1881	Ditto	1908	Ditto
1882	J. T. Harrison	1909	E. H. Laurence

Perhaps some of our readers will be amused to read a copy of the "Declaration" which at one time had to be signed by the "Bailiff" of the Borough (as he was then called instead of "Mayor"):—

DECLARATION REQUIRED BY 9TH, GEORGE 4TH, CHAPTER 17.

I, James Harrison, do solemnly and sincerely in the presence of God, profess, testify, and declare upon the true ffaith of a Christian, that I will never exercise any power, authority or influence, which I may possess by virtue of the office of Bailiff of the Borough and Parish of Buckingham, to injure or weaken the Protestant Church, as it is by Law established in England, or to disturb the said Church, or the Bishops and Clergy of the said Church in the possession of any rights or Privileges to which such Church, or the said Bishops and Clergy are or may be by Law entitled.

Made and subscribed at Buckingham aforesaid in the said Borough and Parish, the ffirst, day of May, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine, in the presence of } J. HARRISON.

JNO. LOVERIDGE, *Bailiff of the Borough and Parish of Buckingham, and one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, for the said Borough and Parish.*

BUCKINGHAM A COUNTY TOWN.

BUCKINGHAM is a "County Town" in itself, as may be seen by the following hitherto unpublished "Counsel's opinion," which has been placed at our service:—

COPY OF AN OPINION OF THE ATTORNEY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL, DATED 28TH JULY, 1827.

"We are of opinion that by the construction of the Statute, a Borough having exclusive jurisdiction, and not contributing to the County Rates, must be considered for the purpose of the Statute as a County of itself; and we think that the Borough of Buckingham is in this class, for it appears from the last communication that it has exclusive jurisdiction, that it does not contribute to the County Rate, but that it pays such expenses as generally fall upon the County Rate out of the Poors' Rate, which in effect is the fund out of which the County Rate is supplied. It must be taken therefore to have a rate in the value of a County Rate though not formally assessed as such."

J. SCARLETT.

Also from the "History of Bucks" by Cassey & Co., we learn that in Henry VII.'s time Buckingham was considered the County Town, and the standard measures for the County were ordered to be kept there. This is confirmed by our townsman, Mr. G. W. French, still having in his possession some of these measures (see Memo. on page 10 of Mr. Roundell's Lecture, of their Exhibition in 1855).

COMMISSION OF THE PEACE.

There is also a Borough Commission of the Peace, with the Mayor as Chief Magistrate, assisted by about six others.

THE BOROUGH ARMS, &c.

THE Municipal insignia include the MACE tempo Charles II. (see photo), a Mayor's chain and badge, and the Borough seals. The mace of silver gilt, is historically of much interest, having been made or converted in the Commonwealth period, and re-converted at the Restoration. It is 3ft. 4ins. long, and has a plain shaft, three knobs, and a spreading base; three brackets support the head, the surface of which is divided into three compartments, displaying: 1st, a Swan with wings expanded, and gorged with a coronet and chained amid foliage; 2nd, a Harp; 3rd a Rose. Surmounting the head is an elaborate cresting of open-work, from which rise three gilt feathers, curved inwards, and meeting at their extremities, and on these rests a square cushion carrying a crown. On the raised flat top are the Royal Stuart Arms, between the letters "C.R." At the base is an incription as follows:—

> "*In the 12th year of the Reigne of our Soveraigne Lord King Charles II., by the Grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, 1660.*"

By the liberality of Mr. A. C. Rogers, the mace was re-gilt in 1902, during his Mayoralty.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT IN 1845.

THE CEREMONY OF PRESENTING THE MACE.

IT may not be generally known that on the occasion of a reigning Sovereign entering within the Borough precincts, it is etiquette for the Mayor at the time being to tender the mace with an expression of loyal submission, and then receive it back again, as the following record of the QUEEN'S VISIT in 1845 will shew:—

These are the anncient Armes belonginge and apperteignynge to the towne and Boroughe of Buckingham and paryshe of the same, and at this my present visitation was Paull Miller baylief of the same towne and boroughe; Paull Dorrell, Esquier, Steward; John Lambert, Thomas Moore, John Gates, John Powell, William Illing, Richard Myllinge, Humfrey Ryve, John Okeley and William Symkyns, Burgesses and late Bayliefs of the said towne and Boroughe; Ferdinando Powlton, Gent, John Taylor and Ralphe Sear, Burgesses; John Okeley, Deputie Steward; and John Whyte, under baylief, which armes I have ratified and recorded. In witness whereof I have subscribed my name the (eighth) day of September 1574.

J. Lee, alias Portcullis,

Marshall to Clarencieulx.

THE BOROUGH MACE AND CHAIN.

Be it Remembered,

That on Wednesday, the 15th of January, 1845, Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, with her Illustrious Consort, His Royal Highness Prince Albert, passed through this town upon the occasion of Her Majesty's visit to His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, at Stowe. The town was decorated with 4 arches and other devices. Her Majesty was met at 3 o'clock in the afternoon at the entrance of the town from Stony Stratford, and conducted through it by a procession formed as follows :—

Detachment of Yeomanry.
Superintendent of Borough Police.
Six Special Constables. | Six Special Constables.
The Band.
The Gentry and Clergy of the County.
The Inhabitants of the Borough.
Officers of the Corporation.
Sir Thomas Fremantle, Bt., and Sir J. Chetwode, Bt.
(Members for the Borough).
C. G. Dupres, Esq. *(Member for the County).*
The Town Council (two and two) with white wands.
The Aldermen (two and two) with white wands.
The Borough Magistrates.
Sir H. Verney, Bt. | Captain Dewes.
George Nelson, Esq. *(Clerk of the Peace).*

Policeman.	Cushion Bearer.	Policeman.
Ditto.	Mace Bearer.	Ditto.
J. W. Cowley, Esq. *(Town Clerk).*	Henry Smith, Esq. *(The Mayor).*	Rev. Thos. Silvester *(Chaplain).*

The Royal Cortége.
The Lodges of the various Societies.

The Mayor and Corporation were attired in their official robes, the Clergy wore their robes, and local Gentlemen in the procession wore a scarlet rosette. In the Market Place the ceremony of delivering up the Mace took place ; the Mayor advanced to the carriage in which Her Majesty and the Prince were seated, and produced to the Queen the Mace on a cushion, saying : " May it please your Majesty to accept this Mace, which I, as Mayor of this Ancient and Loyal Borough, humbly present in dutiful submission to your Majesty's Royal prerogative and authority." To which the

Queen replied (returning the Mace): "Mr. Mayor, I hope you will keep it; I am much gratified by my reception in this Borough."

The ceremony over, the procession moved on towards Stowe, till it arrived at the Duke of Buckingham's Lodges, from which the Royal party passed at a rapid pace amidst deafening cheers of the people. The procession then returned to the Town Hall, and a public dinner took place at the "Cobham Arms" Inn. The town was brilliantly illuminated in the evening.

On the following day, by the command of Her Majesty, the Mayor attended at Stowe, and presented to her an Address from the town, of which the following is a copy:

"To the Queen's most excellent Majesty, the humble address of the Mayor, Aldermen, Burgesses, Magistrates, and Inhabitants of the Borough of Buckingham. We, your Majesty's most dutiful subjects, most gratefully avail ourselves of your Majesty's auspicious presence amongst us to offer the expression of devoted loyalty and attachment which we at all times feel towards your Majesty. We trust your Majesty will believe that any expressions we might use would but slightly convey the deep sense we entertain of your Majesty's great condescension in thus adding your Majesty's name to those of your Majesty's Royal predecessors and the other august personages who have visited this Ancient and Loyal Borough. We most earnestly pray that, under the protection of Divine Providence, continued and increased blessings may be shed upon your Majesty and upon your Majesty's Royal Consort; that your Majesty's reign may be distinguished by the glory and undisturbed prosperity of this great country, and that your Majesty may be visited with every domestic and personal blessing, and long preserved for the special benefit and happiness of these Realms.

"Given under the common Seal of this Borough, the 15th day of January, in the 8th year of your Majesty's Reign."

HENRY SMITH,
Mayor.

L.S.

The Mayor had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty and kissing her hand, and, by her gracious command, afterwards dined in the presence of his Sovereign.

On Saturday, the 18th January, Her Majesty and Prince Albert returned from Stowe, and passing again through Buckingham were received in the town and conducted through it in the same manner as on the Wednesday of arrival.

Mr. Thos. Baker says he distinctly recollects this visit of their Majesties, and that they brought with them their two children, the Princess Royal and Prince Albert Edward (our present King). Mr. Baker was one of the school children massed below the Gaol to sing the National Anthem to them.

The Mayor's chain with badge, likewise of silver gilt, was presented in 1884 by Sir E. H. Verney, Bart., and Lady Verney, of Claydon House. It consists of 18 quatrefoil links, each enclosing a Tudor rose, and united by smaller links ; the circular badge displays the Borough Arms on one side, with a wreath of laurel ; and on the other side the Verney Arms, and an inscription.

Of the two SEALS, the older (of silver) bears the Arms of the Borough, as confirmed by William Harvey, Clarenceux in 1565, and the modern brass seal is similar.

There is also a Mayor's robe, of dark blue cloth trimmed with fur, with cocked hat to match, the gift of A. C. Rogers, Esq., Mayor, during his term of office (1902).

The weather-vane Swan of hollow hammered copper (about 6ft. square in height and width of wings) surmounting the Town Hall was re-gilt in 1881 by the Mayor, J. T. Harrison.

The following letter, written in 1898, gives considerable information as to the BOROUGH ARMS :—

BUCKINGHAM,

April, 1898.

DEAR SIR,

As promised, I have now looked up the papers *re* Buckingham "Borough Arms," and find that Mr. H. Gough, London, preparatory to writing his paper in the "Bucks Records" on same, enquired of my father (10th February, 1868), for any information on the subject, saying incidentally, "It appears doubtful whether there is any authority for the chain."

In his reply, my father pointed out that the swan in the grant of "ancient arms belonging to the town of Buckingham, dated 1574" (and which I lent you to have a seal made from), "is gorged with a crown," but has *no chain* to it (and this is equally so in a confirmatory grant, which I also have by me, dated August, 1634). Furthermore, my father pointed out that in the top corner of the frontispiece to "Browne Willis" (an engraving of the Old Church in Buckingham), the swan is represented "gorged but not chained," but that in the *self-same book* (page 106), Willis quotes from an entry (in similar language to the one shown you) in the Herald's office, London, made by "Harvey," the then King-at-Arms, dated 1565 (nine years only earlier than my actual document): "the arms belonging to this Ancient Corporation, as they are blazoned in the Herald's office, are per pale gules and sable, a swan chained and gorged with a ducal coronet, his wings expanded." Mr. Gough further says: "The people of three centuries ago seem therefore to have been rather foggy over the question of the chain," and it is at least singular that about 100 years ago, when our present church was built, a swan was carved on a shield over the tower door, gorged but *not* chained. The swan on the London Road Bridge is not even "gorged" with a crown, while the Corporation seal has been from the earliest, a swan gorged *and* "chained."

Mr. Gough in following up the subject at the time I have mentioned (see Records of Buckinghamshire, Vol. III., 1868), quoted many instances of the swan being used as "family arms," and gives an illustration of the standard borne by Henry Duke of Hereford (about 1400) with, amongst their insignia, a swan gorged and chained. He also gives a further illustration of the standard which "pertained to Henry Stafford, Earl of Wiltshire (1509-23), second son to the second Duke of Buckingham," and upon which is emblazoned a swan "gorged and chained" (pretty much as in our present Corporation seal), and incidentally he mentions that in a sepulchral brass at Westminster (1399) the swan, "sometimes gorged and chained and sometimes not, is several times repeated." He then localises the matter by saying, "It was doubtless through the Dukes of Buckingham of the House of Stafford (who had great estates within the county) that the swan became so associated with the shire as to become its appropriate symbol, and especially the ensign of its chief town."

In the copy of "Browne Willis," presented to the Town Council by Mr. G. A. U. Nelson in 1877 (on the death of his father, the late town clerk,) is a map of the town by John Speed as it was in 1610, with the swan gorged and chained on an armorial shield, and I notice that incidentally Mr. Gough mentions having seen a manuscript at the British Museum of the 17th century, with the swan "chained," but he does not lead to this having any local connection, nor does it exactly interest us, beyond the mere fact, to find him quoting the Borough Arms of Wycombe being also "a swan gorged and chained."

You are aware how pleased I am at all times to find anyone taking an interest in the "Ancient Borough," and it has been therefore a delight to me to embody for you in as short a space as possible all I know or can glean on the subject, and, in conclusion, it appears to me that the motto or seal you had made is quite correct without the chain, whilst anyone adopting the "Corporation" seal as a starting point would be *equally* correct in copying the one thereon shown (see Walford's "Notes on Historic Buckingham" *re* the Borough Arms).

I remain,

Yours very truly,

J. T. HARRISON.

Mr. R. Crew,
Prebend Cottage,
Buckingham.

IMPORTANT LOCAL DOCUMENTS.

IN addition to the Charters (now hung in the Council Chamber) there is stored there the "Corporation Chest," and although the greater part of its contents consists of uninteresting old voting papers, &c., there are a few documents which, on a recent occasion, were brought to light, and a list of them taken as follows:—

Record of appointment of "Principal Burgesses," from about 1612 to 1835, when the entries stop without any note of explanation why.

1574.—Copies of Grants of Property by Bernard Brocas for the term of 2,000 years.

1588.—Copy of Katherine Agard's Charity.

1688.—Appointment of Sir Richard Temple, Bart., High Steward of the Borough, in the place of his late Grace, George, Duke of Buckingham.

1813.—Appointment of the most Noble Richard Grenville Chandos Temple, Marquis of Buckingham.

1764, 24th February.—Appointment, by the Bailiff and Principal Burgesses, of the Revd. James Eyre as Master of the "Free School," in the place of Mr. William Halsted, deceased.

1781, 2nd July. Ditto of James Jones, Schoolmaster of the "Gabriel Newton" Charity School.

1785, 17th August.—Ditto of Revd. William Eyre, in the place of his brother, Revd. James Eyre, deceased.

1676, 14th June.—Memo., that we, the Bailiff and Burgesses did receive into our custody all the Deeds relating to 3 yards of land lately purchased and settled upon the Vicar of Buckingham and his successors.

1687, March 15th.—Admission of Sir Richard Temple, Knight and Bart., as a "Freeman of the Borough."

(All the above are entries in a well preserved half-calf bound book.)

1781 to 1800.—Three weeks' Court of Pleas, Book of Records, and list of Borough Officers elected annually.

1818, 16th March.—Copy of Rules, Orders and Regulations of a "Bank for Savings" at Buckingham (to be then established).

1662 to 1763.—Corporation Precedents.

6th year of James I.—Copy of Deed freeing all Tenants of New College, Oxford, from Tolls.

1814.—Map of proposed Turnpike Road from Buckingham to Newport Pagnell.

1844, September 10th.—Letter to Her Grace the Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos, congratulating her on the coming of age of her son, the Marquis of Chandos, and the acknowledgment of same.

1836, March 30th.—James Barlow did commit an act of vagrancy—"14 days' hard."

1500 (about). A Register (undecipherable except by an expert) of appointment of Officers of the Borough, including a "*Constable of the Castle.*"

29th Henry VIII., 7th December.—Record of "Court of Port," being fines on bakers for short weight, and other dealers, for similar misdemeanours. (Quite undecipherable except by an expert.)

THE TOWN HALL.

THERE is a fanciful romance as to the history of this building, for Mr. Roundell says, "in 1680 the then Town Hall being considered unworthy, the present pile rose up in a mysterious manner, and when completed it did not cost the town a farthing, but was paid for by the sitting members of Parliament," but he throws a doubt upon the veracity of the story. In Lyson's Bucks (1806) the date is given as 1685. From Dugdale's History it appears that the present building was erected "some years before 1758 at the expense of Sir Ralph Verney." However, at the time of the "Stowe collapse" (1848), it seemed to have become in some way *the personal* property of the Duke of Buckingham, and it was therefore determined that the Corporation should buy it, and this was arranged with Lord Chandos, the Duke's son and successor in title. (See 1857-8 Borough Balance Sheet, "Rent paid to Lord Chandos, £12 2s. 9d.," and in the following year, £14 7s. 6d.; see also, in 1858, Mr. George Nelson's charge "for the conveyance of Town Hall, £99 18s. 4d.") The *modus operandi*, it appears, was to make use of the name of a Mr. Hovil as purchaser; and then he took a mortgage for £1,600 at 5 per cent. per annum (£80). This was subsequently transferred to a Mr. Samuel Peed, of Cambridge, who held it for many years, and then Mr. Harrison offering to find the amount at 4 per cent. it was transferred to him, and in 1885 this mortgage was paid off; partly by cash loaned from Mr. T. Boyse, who agreed to its redemption in £50 annual instalments (all now cleared off), and partly by the sale of Borough property coming in at the end of a 99 years' lease (at the time held by a Mr. Grimbly). This property was situate on either side of the Chewar, and was sold by auction in 1885 in four lots as follows:

Bought by Grimbly,	£240	(now Mr. C. A. Bennett).
„ „ Bucks & Oxon Bank,	£207	(„ Lloyds Bank).
, „ Pringle	£21	(„ Mr. Pringle).
„ „ Rogers,	£640	(„ "The Bakery," Mr. Hull).
	£1,108	

Originally the LARGE HALL was fitted up as an Assize Court with two side galleries, one for the Grand Jury and the other for witnesses; but, with the abolition of the Quarter Sessions on the 22nd November, 1890, the lock fittings were removed, and first one and then the other gallery pulled down, thus gaining more clear floor space for dancing, and for dramatic performances and concerts. In the year 1880 the Council bought chairs and platform, at a cost of £70, for use on these occasions.

The SMALL HALL is still used as a County Court under the "Small Debtors' Recovery Act," which compels the Borough to provide it free, but for all other ordinary lettings a charge is made, which, with the rentals of offices let off on the ground floor, constitutes a good income, and provides more than sufficient funds to keep the whole premises in repair, the surplus going annually to the credit of the Borough Fund. About £400 has, however, just been spent in overhauling the roof and re-decorating the interior, etc. The Town Council meetings and the County and Borough Magistrates' meetings are held here, also Charity Trustees' meetings, School Governors' meetings, Burial Board meetings, Tax Commissioners' Appeals, Weekly Savings Bank, etc., and the Borough Surveyor's office is here situate.

As a "Queen Victoria Jubilee Memorial," a sum was subscribed to convert a part of the back buildings into a Reading Room approached from the Town Hall stairs. It is largely attended every day by both young and old members requiring a short period of recreation from the "daily round and common task." The gift, in the year 1904, of a billiard table by A. J. Robarts, Esq., (though let at quite a nominal charge per game), has materially helped to make the room self-supporting.

The Hall is fitted with both gas and electric light, and a powerful waterworks hydrant is fixed at the stair head in case of fire.

The building is surmounted by a bell-turret of oak encased in lead sheeting, with an illuminated 30-hour clock, and over the same is the swan weather vane (see chapter on the Borough Arms). The illuminated clock face was inserted in the year 1882, at a cost of £26, by Messrs. Gillett & Co.

HOTELS.

The "White Hart" Hotel.

THIS house, from its position in the Market Square, has always been, and must ever be, the principal Hotel in the Borough. It formerly had a carriage drive in from the Market Square under a covered gateway, but the late Duke of Buckingham (to whom it then belonged) very much improved the property by purchasing of the Charity Trustees the adjoining premises ("Three Cups" Inn and yard, etc.), and cutting through the same the present carriage entrance at the bottom of the yard; blocking up the old coach drive in, and turning same into the present entrance hall, with a new stone portico over the footway, etc. The Yeomanry Mess used to be held here in the glorious days of old, but in these practical times the annual training is held under canvas, and the town suffers from the discontinued expenditure of about £1500 annually amongst its various tradesmen. An omnibus runs from this Hotel to meet all trains, and the weekly Corn Market is principally held here in the entrance lobby and market room.

The "Swan and Castle" Hotel.

This well frequented Hotel and market house, situate in Castle Street, now and for many years past known by the above title, was originally called the "White Swan," the reason for the change of name being lost in obscurity. It is undoubtedly an ancient building, and was once the resort of the "nobility

and gentry, etc.," on the occasion of performances at the Theatre then existing upon the premises (see separate account of Buckingham Theatres). Also there is still in the "cock loft" a range of fixed wooden benches, or bedsteads, sufficient in number to accommodate a whole regiment of soldiers, and doubtless used for that purpose at the time of the Civil War, by the Loyalists quartered in the Borough.

Both the "White Hart" and "Swan and Castle" Hotels belonged to the Stowe estate, but on the death of the last Duke of Buckingham without male issue they reverted to his nephew, Earl Temple, who instructed Messrs. Bennett & Sons to sell them by auction on the 21st September, 1894, when Mr. Gough (tenant) bought the "White Hart" with the "Three Cups" Inn for £4,700 (subsequently selling off the "Three Cups" for £1,500 to Messrs. Blencowe); and the Aylesbury Brewery Co., Ltd., bought the "Swan and Castle" Inn for £2,080. Subsequently, at Mr. Gough's death, the "White Hart" again came into the market, and was sold on 25th April, 1899, by Messrs. Harrison & Sons, for £5,125 to Mr. F. W. Turner, who then took up his residence there.

It may be recorded as a "sign of the times" that within the memory of many of the natives of Buckingham no less than 10 licensed houses have been abolished for redundancy: the "Black Swan," the "Trooper," the "Fleece," the "George," the "Cobham Arms," the "Two Swans," the "Bell," the "Crown," the "Dolphin," and the "Rising Sun."

BUCKINGHAM THEATRE.

IN the days gone by when strolling companies paid longer visits to country towns than at the present time, a little gem of a Theatre was constructed over the coach-houses of the "Swan and Castle" Hotel, and performances were frequently given there. During the tenancy of Mr. James

LONDON ROAD BARN (THE OLD THEATRE.)

THE OLD BULL RING.

Connor, however, it was all swept away (having become merely a home for spiders) and the present Assembly Room was made and fitted with two billiard tables, serving bar, etc. In the course of time however, it was found to be rather a drag to go upstairs to the same, so a new billiard room was constructed adjoining the bar of the hotel on the ground floor, in the place of the former kitchen. When theatrical companies now visit Buckingham they make use of the Town Hall, which has been licensed for stage purposes.

About a century ago, a stone-built barn, which stood on the London Road just outside the town, was used as an occasional Theatre (see photo), but it was pulled down, and the materials were used for building the shop now occupied by Mr. Watts at the entrance to the Market Square (see chapter under the heading of " Kirby's Corner ").

THE POST OFFICE.

(From the " Buckingham Advertiser," 9th April, 1887.)

" OUR Post Office being about to be removed to the larger premises in West Street, it may be interesting to our readers to know the various changes of sites the Post Office at Buckingham has had during the past 70 years. We are indebted to Mr. Abraham Wheeler, Market Hill, for the particulars. For many years the Post Office was carried on in part of the premises of the old 'Cobham Arms' in West Street, now occupied by Mr. Reynold's grocery establishment, and, singularly enough, next door to the premises now about to be occupied. It was then removed to part of the 'White Hart' Hotel premises, belonging to Mr. James Harrison, sen., whose sister-in-law, Miss Hollier, managed it; then it was removed to Mr. Stallworthy's in West Street, in the house occupied by Mr. J. W. French; then to the premises now occupied by Messrs. Walford & Son, 'Advertiser' Office; then for a time to the

premises where Mr. G. R. Ellis's residence now stands near the Old Gaol; then to the premises now occupied by Mr. Joseph French's toy shop in Bridge Street; and then to the present premises in Bridge Street, between the 'Three Cups' Inn and the 'White Hart' gateway."

At the time first mentioned above, the "staff" comprised one official indoors and one out, the latter's duty being to go round and deliver what letters arrived in the morning, and in the evening to drive to Stony Stratford with letters posted during the day and meet the coach for London! The progress made since then may be judged by the fact that 30 employees now attend to the business, which includes ordinary Postage, Money Orders, Telegraph, Telephone, Savings Bank, Annuities, Licenses, etc., etc.

THE BUTCHERS' SHAMBLES.

IN the year 1814, the Marquis of Buckingham (who was a great benefactor to the town), employed Mr. James Harrison to erect on part of the Market Hill, then known as "Butcher's Row," a building to enable out-town butchers attending weekly to sell in shelter and comfort instead of being exposed to all weathers as formerly. Half of the site belonged to the Charity Trustees (where formerly stood a "Wool hall" fallen, however, into decay), and it was arranged that their plot should be leased to the Corporation at £11 per annum (as a practical "ground rent"), and that the Council should then take over the new building from the Marquis and conduct the lettings, etc. This was done, and answered well for over half a century, the stall rentals amounting, in 1833, to £30 per annum (Lipscombe), and so averaging up to about the year 1875. As the original stall-holders gradually died out, the younger generation of village butchers would not be at the trouble of driving in

weekly, and the number of stall-holders became so reduced that the Corporation allowed the lease above mentioned to run out on 21st December, 1886, and they and the Charity Trustees resolved to sell their respective portions of the property. It was accordingly put up to auction and was bought by, and divided between, two owners of houses in the Market Square running back to the said Shambles. Mr. Hull's portion has since been pulled down, and extra accommodation for his restaurant built on the site, and the other part has been converted into an ironmongery showroom.

The money realised by the Corporation for their share of the property was applied to building new cart horse stables for the borough team on the Municipal property at the sewage pumping station, and the amount realized by the "Charity" portion paid into their common fund.

In the year 1851, a local confectioner named R. T. Town took a contract for supplying the Great Exhibition in London with pork pies, and hired the Shambles just opposite his shop to make them in, where all the summer huge piles of appetising pastry filled the usually empty stalls. For many years, also Mr. Town conducted a considerable "Twelfth Cake" Lottery, till such institutions were declared illegal.

THE BULL RING.

BETWEEN what is now the "The Bakery" (formerly the "Market Hall") and the present barber's shop, is the open space now called Market Hill, once "The Bull Ring." Fortunately the spirit of the age does not now tolerate as a means of recreation the spectacle of a bull being fastened down by a thong and worried by dogs, but it is interesting to record the survival of the name. On the same site also the "Stocks" once stood, that ancient punishment for tramps

and evil doers, drunkards, etc. These Stocks were ultimately moved lower down the street nearly opposite Podd's Lane, (better known now as Moreton Road); their ultimate fate is not recorded, nor is it known what become of the pair which, within living memory, stood against the Old Churchyard wall on the bank where the footway enters from Church End.

(This "Market Hall" has sometimes been confused with the former "Wool Hall," also abutting on the Bull Ring, but on quite a different site.—See "Shambles.")

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.

THIS ancient Charity is fully described in Mr. Roundell's Lecture, 1857, but the plain old building in which the "six unmarried women" resided becoming dilapidated and out of date as to sanitary arrangements, &c., the Charity Trustees decided to pull it down, and with the nucleus fund left by the late Alderman James Harrison for the purpose and the money realised by sale of the garden at the back running down to the river (on expiration of a 99 years' lease of same) to the owners of adjoining property, they were enabled to erect, at a cost of about £800, the present pretty block of six tenement rooms, in 1897. See the Memorial Stone on the chimney block, as follows:

"Founded
A.D. 1312.
Christ's Hospital,
refounded by
QUEEN ELIZABETH,
A.D. 1597.
Rebuilt in the 60th year
of the reign of
QUEEN VICTORIA,
A.D. 1897."

In Lyson's "Bucks" it is said that the endowment of this Hospital, "with the profits of the Wool Markets, and £5 from the profits of two Fairs," was the gift of a Mr. Harris. (See also Appendix No. 5 to Mr. Roundell's Lecture, 1857.)

THE OLD GAOL.

THE RED BUILDINGS.

THE OLD GAOL.

THE square portion of this stone built and slated castellated structure was erected in 1758; see inscription as follows on a memorial stone in the north wall (Market side), hardly now, however, decipherable :—

> "The Right Honourable Richard Grenville Temple, Lord Viscount Cobham, caused this edifice to be erected at his own expense for the use of this town and county, the Summer Assizes being restored to the place, and fixed here by Act of Parliament, in the year 1758."

In the year 1839, a handsome semi-circular Superintendent's residence was added on the south side at a cost of about £1,600, which was raised by loans as follows: Of Mr. Thomas Ridgway, £500; of Mr. Thomas Pargeter, £500; of Miss Harriett Bartlett, £500; and Mr. Joseph Holdom, £100. The amounts and interest were gradually cleared off at the rate of £100 per annum. This is said to have been the first structure designed by the afterwards celebrated architect, Sir George Gilbert Scott, who was the son of the Rev. Thomas Scott, of Gawcott, and at that time only a young rising man. Notwithstanding the great cost of the original building, and the added Superintendent's residence, the Gaol was condemned in 1892 (on the Borough Police being amalgamated with the County), and a new and more sanitary "Lock-up" was built on the Maids Moreton Road.

The Gaol having thus become effete, it was actually proposed by certain members of the Town Council at that date to pull it down and sell the old material, and tenders were obtained for its demolition. These were, however, so absurdly small that, fortunately, wiser counsels prevailed, and the picturesque building was saved, a new use being found for it by conversion into a "Fire Engine Station." It is also used as an ammunition store by the local Rifle Corps, and for sundry other storage purposes.

It may be interesting here to give a copy of the document (on parchment) recording the first "Appointment of a Watchman" for the Borough in 1792 :—

11th January, 1792.

"Appointment of a
WATCHMAN
for the Parish of
Buckingham.

"**Whereas** it was determined at a Publick Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Buckingham, to appoint a Watch within the said Borough, and to defray the charge and expence of such Watch by voluntary contributions. We whose Names are here subscribed do severally promise to pay to such person who shall be regularly appointed to collect the same: the several and respective sums set by us opposite to our names, and to continue to pay such subscription quarterly for the space of one whole year, and so in like manner in every year, until we severally give notice in writing, of the discontinuance of such subscriptions, at the time of paying the fourth quarterly payment in some one year, and every person subscribing sixpence per quarter shall have a Vote for the choice of a Watchman."

Here follow about 120 names, including:

Phil. Box,	3/-.	Ed. Emerton,	3d.
Jas. Bradford,	2/-.	John Bartlett,	3/-.
Thos. Hearn,	2/-.	T. Shillingford,	2/6.
Jas. Allen,	1/-.	R. Adcock,	6d.
B. Coles,	6d.	Geo. Nelson,	1/-.
Jno. Hadland,	6d.	Jno. Pittam,	6d.
Jno. Batchelor,	3d.	Thos. Griffiths,	6d.
Richd. North,	6d.	&c., &c.	

Total, £5 3s. 11d. (quarterly subscriptions).

Mr. Thos. Baker, on reading above, writes: "I well remember getting out of bed and going to the window to hear the Watchman say as he passed by, 'Past 12 o'clock and a moonshiny night,' this being of course varied with the hour and condition of weather."

In J. J. Sheahan's "Bucks," it is recorded that in 1768 a man named Whitehead was whipped at the cart-tail from the Gaol to the Town Hall, and the compiler of these Notes can just recollect a similar degrading sight in the Square, but now, happily, more humane punishments for crime are substituted.

"THE RED BUILDINGS"

In the Old "Cow Fair," North End.

AFTER the calamitous Fire on 15th March, 1725, which destroyed about half the town, so many families were rendered homeless that Lord Cobham (of Stowe House) took pity upon them, and erected a bunch of cottages for their temporary accommodation. Built hurriedly, they were not ornamental, but served their purpose at the time, and were allowed to remain till the year 1866, when they became an unsatisfactory "slum," and were accordingly condemned, sold, and cleared right away, so that the beautiful Avenue of Limes, which Lord Addington proposed to plant below the Gaol, might go right down to North End Square. His Lordship then had the ground dug over about a yard deep, an entirely new sewer laid, and the trees planted—the total cost being reported to have exceeded £500.

THE NURSING HOME.

THIS was first established in the year 1868 by the united efforts of the late Rev. W. Foxley Norris, Vicar, and the late Miss Stowe. It was carried on for some years under a Committee of Management in a dwelling house in Castle Street belonging to the Stowe family, opposite to Trolly Hall, but the space being limited, and the demand for beds constantly increasing, the first Lord Addington (then the

Right Hon. J. G. Hubbard) most generously took the matter in hand, bought a site in "North End," and erected on the same the present very efficient and handsome building (from designs by Sir G. Gilbert Scott), and at the opening ceremony he and Lady Addington presented it as a free gift to the Borough. The dedication tablet is inscribed as follows:

"To the Great Physician
of souls and bodies,
Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
and in thankful remembrance
of the preservation from sudden death
of their Eldest Son, Egerton Hubbard, this Nursing Home
is humbly offered by his Parents,
A.D. 1886."

The actual opening ceremony was on 5th March, 1887. Since that time the scope of this most desirable and useful of all our local public institutions has been still further enlarged: "The DISTRICT Nursing Association" having been some years ago added to it. There are six beds in the Male Ward and six in the Female Ward, besides establishment accommodation, and it is seldom that any of the beds are unoccupied. The local doctors generously give gratuitous attendance on the patients.

THE WORKHOUSE.

A "UNION" WORKHOUSE was erected on the Stony Stratford Road in 1835, from the plans of Mr. G. G. Scott, architect, of Gawcott, at a cost of £8,215. It is a large substantial building of stone, and slated, and will accommodate 135 paupers. An Isolation Fever Ward, brick built and slated, was added about 40 years ago.

A great improvement was effected in the year 1898, when a new Board Room was added. Also, in accordance with an Act

of Parliament on the subject, a detached "Casual Ward" was built in 1898 near the entrance gates, with separate cells for each caller, in which they must perform an allotted task in return for board and lodging, bath, etc.

In the grounds at the back of the House some years ago a large quantity of excellent gravel and sand was dug out and sold, but the supply became exhausted, so the surface was levelled and devoted to vegetable gardening for the House supply.

Meetings of the Guardians are held here fortnightly, and two of the members are appointed fortnightly as House Visitors.

Prior to the building of the above Workhouse, there was a "Poor House" in Well Street adjoining the "Bull Inn."

THE CANAL.

(From "The Gentleman's Magazine," 1801.)

MAY 1ST.—"The branch of Canal from Buckingham to the Grand Junction Canal was opened this day with great rejoicings. A barge with the Marquis of Buckingham, Mr. Praed, and Mr. Selby (Gentlemen of the Committee), and Mr. Box, the Treasurer, accompanied by a large party of ladies and gentlemen, and a band of music, led the way to the procession of 12 barges, laden with coal, slate, and a variety of merchandise. Upon their entrance into the bason at Buckingham they were saluted by the firing of several pieces of cannon. A numerous party were handsomely entertained by the Marquis of Buckingham at the "Cobham Arms" Inn on this occasion, and a liberal supply of beer was given to the populace.

This branch of Canal, 9¼ miles in length, has been com-

pleted in about eight months, and will secure to an extensive district of country most substantial benefits."

At the present time this Canal Branch is fast becoming silted up, succumbing to railway competition; though spasmodic efforts have been occasionally made to clean it out and re-open the traffic.

The late Alderman Henry Thorpe established a most successful Artificial Manure Manufactory at the Wharf some 40 years ago, but severe competition and centralization ruined the business, and, as a Coal-Wharf, the extra facilities at the Railway Goods Station produced the same effect.

BATHING PLACE.

IN the year 1860 it was considered very desirable to utilise the River by making a Public Bathing Place, and a Committee having collected subscriptions, a portion of the stream at the bottom of Mr. Tibbetts' Yard (where it enters the town from Brackley) was cleaned out, wooden dressing boxes erected, and a spring board fixed, &c. Rules and regulations were drawn up to organise and carry the idea out, and swimming was vigorously indulged in. This went on most successfully for about 10 years, when several patrons having died, or left the town, the place fell into disuse, the boxes decayed, and the bed of the river became silted up. New attempts in more recent years have similarly been made to secure the advantages of a Bathing Place for the town, one in the river near the Goods Station, starting (1891) with 150 members, and lasting about another 10 years. At the present time, dressing boxes have been erected, and a length of river, widened and deepened, near the "Lower Wharf," for swimming and bathing.

TROLLY HALL.

A FAMOUS Bowling Green was made on Castle Hill in the year 1670 by a Mr. Robinson, who also built a large Hall (which was given the above name) for the entertainment of the gentry round, and which George Villiers (the then Duke of Buckingham) often honoured with his presence. The house in Castle Street now owned and occupied by Alfred Stowe, Esq., stands on the former site of this Hall, and is named after it.

THE CASTLE HILL.

BUCKINGHAM CASTLE formerly existed where our present Church stands.

In *Lyson's* "Bucks," 1806, page 526, we read:—

"It is supposed that the Castle was anciently a seat of the Gifford's, Earls of Buckingham. Camden observes that the great banks of the Castle, of which there were scarcely any other remains, divided the town almost in half; a part of the County Gaol, which stood on its site, remained in Browne Willis' time divided into tenements for poor people. In 1670 a Bowling Green was made on the Castle Hill, much resorted to by the gentlemen of the County. Mr. Willis says that the polls for the Knights were taken on this Hill, and he had heard that the Assizes were formerly held there, in booths put up for the purpose."

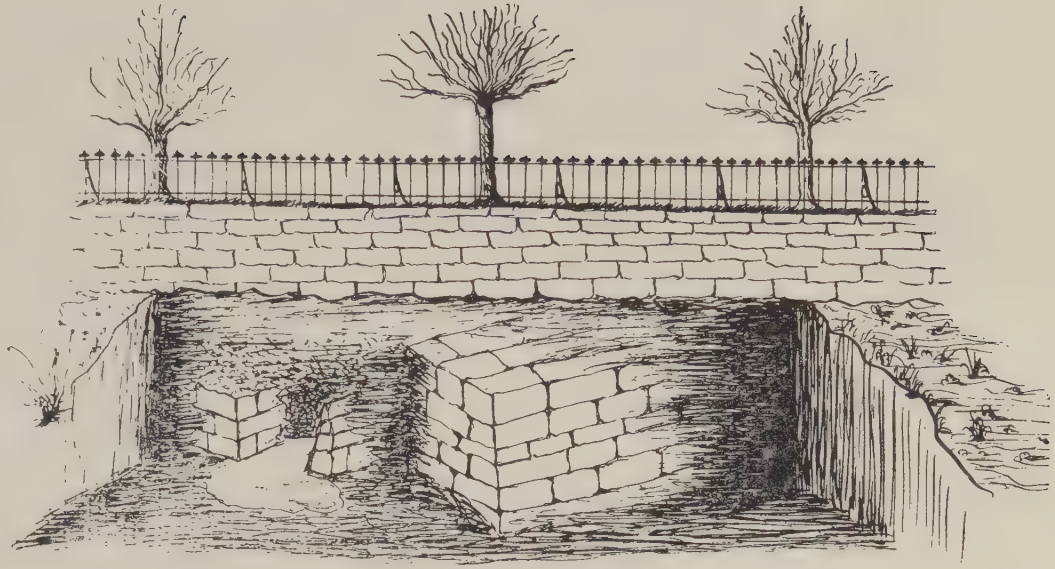
In *John Speed's* "Buckinghamshire," 1610 (book I., chapter xxii., foolscap size), he says: "The Shire Town Buckingham, fruitfully seated upon the river Ouse, was fortified with a rampire and sconces on both banks by King Edward the Elder, saith Mariannes, the Scotch writer."

In *John Speed's* "Buckingham," 1666, (one chapter out of an octavo book on the whole world), he says: "There, in the heart of the town, hath stood a strong Castle, mounted upon a high hill, which long since was brought to the period of her estate,

Discovery of the Old Castle Wall, at the site of an extension of the Wesleyan Sunday Schools. 1877.-

(the quoin of the Wall hung over 4 in.)

From the level of the boundary wall, on which the iron rail fence is fixed, - it was about 13 feet to the site of the hearth – as exposed in getting out earth to make room for the School extension. – After the accompanying sketch was made, - the hearth, old wall, earth &c. was removed; back to the Church Hill boundary, & the new class room added; - The Fire-place in same will occupy pretty much the same position as the former one did. –



OLD FIREPLACE IN FORMER BUCKINGHAM CASTLE.

now nothing remaining besides the signs that there she had stood."

In *Emmanuel Bowen's* "Map of Buckinghamshire," 1756, he says: "And on a great mount in the middle of the town was built a strong Castle, formerly in the possession of Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, long since in ruins."

In *Browne Willis'* "History of Buckingham," 1755, page 49, it mentions "Elias de Camvil, Constable of Buckingham Castle," as living in 1280. Also in an old volume in the *Corporation Records* an entry occurs as to a "Constable of the Castle," 41st year of Queen Elizabeth.

In *Mr. Roundell's* Lecture, (22nd January, 1857), pp. 6 and 7, it states: "Traditionally we believe in a Castle here, for tradition has preserved a record in the well-known names 'Castle Street,' 'Castle Hill,' 'Castle Mills,' 'Castle Farm,' yet no written record is extant of the building of a Castle, nor, as far as I know, do any certain traces of foundation remain." (See note following.)

Although all traces of "Buckingham Castle" had thus apparently disappeared, yet in the year 1877, on Mr. John Munday, builder, excavating some soil at the back of the *Wesleyan Chapel* abutting on the Castle Hill (for the purpose of building extra class rooms there), he came upon some ancient masonry of evidently excellent workmanship. He called the attention of the late Alderman James Harrison to the same, and the latter made a rough sketch of it, with some memos. as to size, etc., considering that this was without doubt part of the Castle ruins—probably a kitchen with open hearth, as the stones shewed evident signs of having been submitted to fire heat up to about a yard high from the paved level (see sketch). It has also been held that the large sized stone-built Well in Dr. Bruce Pearson's outbuilding is the original Castle Well.

In an engraving of a view of Buckingham from the south-west published in 1803 it is quite evident there were at that time no lime trees round the Church Hill, but they were planted probably not long after. In 1903 the trees

having, however, attained such proportions as to block out entirely (when in full leaf) the view of the fabric from the best approaches to the town, the Corporation resolved to cut out every alternate tree. This necessarily gives a somewhat ragged appearance now, but in course of a few years it is hoped that the improvement may be fully realized.

The handsome cast-iron palisading round the Hill was erected by the Council in 1859.

The following cutting from the "*Buckingham Advertiser*" (1858) is inserted as a record of the way money was raised in those days; as preserving the date of the Church Hill wall, and the date when the Hill was acquired by the Corporation, and as a reminder that in the first instance the wall on the southern side was not built on the outside boundary of the property. The soil was, however, made up to the Church Hill level, the plot added to the Hill, and the outer boundary wall raised by the Corporation some 10 years later.

The Church Hill.

At the last meeting of the Town Council, an official report of the committee appointed to carry out the alterations and improvements on and around the Church Hill, was presented by the late Mayor (E. Parrott, Esq.) It was as follows:—

"The Church Hill, having become the property of the Mayor and Corporation, by an arrangement with the Marquis of Chandos, and its boundary fence being in a most dilapidated condition, it was found necessary to repair it, and various discussions were held by the Council on the subject, but as they were advised that the cost of these necessary repairs could not be defrayed out of the borough rate, the Mayor (E. Parrott, Esq.), called a meeting of the inhabitants to consider the possibility of such repairs being done by public subscription. A meeting having been held, a committee was formed, and consisted of the following gentlemen: the Mayor, the Rev. H. Roundell, Mr. P. Box, Mr. H. Humphreys, and Mr. G. King, who, after various meetings, collected funds, and invited tenders for the work. In June, 1857, the committee contracted with Mr. W. H. Tibbetts to do the work for £200, according to the specification then made. Mr. P. Box gave stone for the pur-

pose, but the supply from his property at the foot of the hill having failed, the committee were compelled to purchase the required quantity, which they did of Mr. Taylor, of Brackley, at an additional cost of £42 3s. 9d. The committee found that the cartage of this stone from the railway involved an additional expense, though the greater part of it was done, as well as the cartage of the gravel from the Union Workhouse, by those gentlemen whose names are appended to this report. The additional cost for stone and extra work, such as for mending the sunken boundary wall for a few yards beyond the iron fence at this point (the north-east angle of the hill), and other incidentals, amounted altogether to £88 1s. 5d. beyond the original contract.

"The committee beg to observe that a piece of ground some yards square, now without the boundary, but which is supported by the sunken wall above referred to, is part of the same property as the hill."

"The cost of gravel and the labour for putting down for the whole of the walks amounted to £25 5s. 0d., of which the Churchwardens of the parish have paid £8 5s. 0d., as an assumed proportion of the expense for the walks bounding and belonging to the Church. The Council having raised the salary of the Mayor to £50 a year, for his two years of office—namely: from November, 1856, to November, 1858—he appropriated the whole of it to the above purpose.

"The following are those who kindly sent their teams to perform the carting of stones and gravel gratuitously: Messrs. J. Bacon, Joseph Barton, Thomas Beards, James Bennett, N. Horwood, R. Ridgway, Thomas Ridgway, Thomas Ridgway, jun., E. Ridgway, R. Rogers, T. Roper, Samuel Sheppard, H. Thorpe, R. Warr, W. Warr, and Mrs. J. Sear.

"The total amount received was: the Mayor's Salary, £100; Subscriptions, £222 14s. 11d.=£322 14s. 11d.; payments to Mr. Tibbetts, £297 8s. 5d.; for gravel and labour in putting it down, &c., £25 6s. 6d.; total, £322 14s. 11d."

THE CHURCH BELLS.

(From "The Parish Magazine," March, 1908.)

IT is with great pleasure that we are able to report the completion of the re-hanging of our Bells. It was arranged with the Revd. F. E. Robinson (the Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Bell-ringers) before the work was begun that, directly it was completed, he should

bring a band of ringers and test the bells by ringing a "grand peal." This took place on Thursday, January 30th. The peal consisted of 5,040 changes, and took 3 hours and ten minutes to ring. The verdict of the Master was, that we had the most beautiful peal of bells, and the best belfry in the county. He also expressed himself as perfectly satisfied with the work of the re-hanging. After the peal was over, the Vicar invited our own ringers to join the guests at the Vicarage for tea.

Since the bells were finished, the Churchwardens have had some carpenter's work done in the belfry, and we believe that now everything is in a perfect condition. Mr. Bowell's bill for £90 has been paid. (This was for filing away and knocking off the original crown staples, and then hanging the bells on iron girders, with the centre of gravity lowered, so that the exertion of ringing is thus minimised.)

LIST OF THE BELLS.

No. 1.—Inscription: "I mean to make it understood, that tho' I'm little yet I'm good."—Chapman & Mears of London—fecerunt 1782.

„ 2.—Inscription: "If you have a judicious ear, you'll own my voice is sweet and clear."—Chapman & Mears of London—fecerunt 1782.

„ 3.—Inscription: "Our voices shall with joyful sound, make hills and valleys echo round."—Chapman & Mears of London—fecerunt 1782.

„ 4.—Inscription: "Such wondrous power to musick's given, it elevates the soul to Heaven."—Chapman & Mears of London—fecerunt 1782.

„ 5.—Inscription: "Musick is medicine to the mind."—Chapman & Mears of London—fecerunt 1782.

„ 6.—Inscription: "Whilst thus we join in chearfull sound, may love and loyalty abound."—Chapman & Mears of London—fecerunt 1782.

„ 7.—Inscription: "In wedlock bands, all ye who join, with hands your heart unite, so shall our tuneful tongues combine and laud the nuptial rite."—Chapman & Mears of London—fecerunt 1782.

„ 8.—Inscription: "William Elliott, Bailiff, Richard Wheeler, T. Town, W. Boughan, W. and J. Norris, Collectors."—J. Mander hang us.—Chapman & Mears of London—fecerunt 1782.

The Church Bell-ringers at one time possessed a set of handbells, with which they paraded the town at Christmas-tide.

THE CHURCH.

THE most conspicuous ornament in Buckingham is the Parish Church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, erected in 1777-81 on Castle Hill. The Old Church in Prebend End, a cruciform edifice, had a lofty spire 163 feet in height from the ground, which collapsed on the 7th February, 1699. The building then remained for a series of years in a more or less dilapidated state, until Dr. Browne Willis collected funds and had the tower raised, but this made it too heavy, and on the 26th March, 1776, the tower fell, and the whole structure was thereupon pulled down and removed, and the present Church erected (largely with the old material) on the new site. The funds for this purpose were raised partly by Bonds (of which the following is a copy), and the balance was kindly contributed by Richard Earl Temple, K.G., the total cost being about £7,000 :—

"**At a Public Meeting** *of the Trustees appointed by an Act of Parliament made in the Seventeenth year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Third, Entitled 'An Act for building a new Church within the Town and Parish of Buckingham,' holden by adjournment at the Town Hall of the said parish, this fourteenth day of July, in the year of our Lord, One thousand Seven hundred and Seventy Seven, before George Nugent Grenville, Esquire, The Reverend Robert Pargeter, Clerk, Walter Roade, Thomas Knight, Benjamin Ashwell, Bonton Seeley, James Bradford, Philip Box, William Goode, and John Sayer, Gentlemen.*

"**Whereas** *John Wise of Middleton Cheney, in the County of Northampton, Cordwainer, hath contributed, advanced, and paid into the hands of Philip Box of Buckingham, aforesaid, Mercer and Draper; by the Order of Richard Grenville Temple 'Earl Temple,' and by our direction; The sum of One hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain, for the absolute purchase of one annuity of Eight pounds of lawful money, for and during the natural Life of him the said John Wise, to be charged upon and payable out of the rates of the said Town and parish of Buckingham; to be raised by virtue of the said Act;* **And Whereas** *it has been agreed between us*

CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL.

"THREE DECKER" PULPIT IN BUCKINGHAM CHURCH (1780.)

(being seven of the Trustees appointed by the above-mentioned Act of Parliament) and the said John Wise that the said annuity of Eight Pounds per Annum shall be paid yearly and every year during the natural Life of him the said John Wise by two half-yearly payments, on the fifth day of April and the tenth day of October in every year, the first half-yearly payment to be made on the tenth day of October now next ensuing. **Now** *we whose names are hereunto Set and Subscribed (being seven of the Trustees appointed by the said Act of Parliament) in Consideration of the said Sum of One Hundred pounds so contributed, advanced and paid by the said John Wise as aforesaid, Do by virtue of, and in pursuance of the directions of the said Authority order, direct, and appoint, that there be paid yearly and every year out of the rates of the said Town and Parish of Buckingham, to be raised by virtue of the said Act of Parliament unto the said John Wise, for and during the Term of his natural Life, one annuity or clear yearly Sum of Eight pounds of lawful money of Great Britain: or by two equal half-yearly payments on the fifth day of April and on the tenth day of October in every year; the first payment of four pounds to be made on the tenth day of October now next ensuing.* **And we do further order and appoint** *that the said annuity of Eight pounds per annum shall be charged upon, and be paid, and payable out of the said Rates. And we do hereby charge and make the same payable from time to time out of the money arising by the Rates and Assessments by the said Act of Parliament directed to be made, according to the provisions and directions of the said Act."*

GEORGE NUGENT GRENVILLE. WM. GOODE.
W. ROADE. JAMES BRADFORD.
PHIL. BOX. EDW. BOX.
B. SEELEY. J. SAYER.
ROBERT PARGETER. THOS. KNIGHT.

Witnesses—

JOHN EDGAR.
JOHN GARRETT.

The Church consists of chancel with aisle, nave of 6 bays, aisles, South porch, and a battlemented Western tower with pinnacles and a light tapering spire, which rises to the height of

150 feet from the ground; the grandfather of our townsman, Philip Inns, being the mason who fixed the ball and weather-vane. There are 8 bells and a 3-faced clock in the tower. The building was originally designed in the classic style, the interior having columns and arched ceiling richly ornamented; (the altar piece, presented by a former Marquis of Buckingham, being a copy of Raphael's "Transfiguration;") but in 1860 several ominous cracks having appeared in the walls (at the West end especially), it was resolved to examine the foundations; on doing so it was discovered that these were only carried down about 4 feet to a thin layer of rock resting on clay underneath, which had permitted of settlement therefore in places. The Vicar (Rev. W. Foxley Norris) called a meeting of the Church Wardens and principal Parishioners to consider what should be done, and it was resolved to put in new foundations for buttresses all round the Church down to the bed-rock at 14 feet deep. This accordingly was done, and now in course of years the buttresses themselves have been gradually built (by private and public subscription) all round the edifice upon these new foundations. A chancel was added in 1865, the gift of the late Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, the inscription on the foundation stone of which is as follows:—

THIS FOUNDATION STONE
OF THE CHANCEL, ERECTED BY
RICHARD PLANTAGENET CAMPBELL GRENVILLE,
THIRD DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS,
WAS LAID BY
CAROLINE, DUCHESS OF BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS,
JULY 6, 1865.

[A hole was chiselled out of the centre of the stone, and a bottle cemented in containing some coins and a record of the gift, and the date.]

A Side Aisle was also given by the late Lord Addington, and the original plain Italian structure, with a gallery all round (now removed), has been turned into a graceful modern Gothic Church, which it is hoped may stand for many generations, the cost of alterations being upwards of £13,000.

To provide the sites for the chancel addition, side aisle, and a new South porch entrance, it became necessary to add to the "consecrated" ground on which the Church stood; this was accordingly increased from 11 feet to about 18 feet wide all round the original building, and conveyed from the Corporation (as owners of the Castle Hill) to the Parish Churchwardens, and consecrated by Bishop Wilberforce in 1867. [Bricks on end are buried under the gravel in places to shew this line, which goes up the middle of the South drive, round the Church, and it is practically impossible therefore to fence it out above ground.]

Many stained windows have been erected as memorials, and include one to the Rev. H. Roundell, the Rev. W. Foxley Norris, the Rev. F. G. Kiddle (former Vicars), another to a former Curate (who died at Zanzibar), and the beautiful East chancel window presented by the Buckingham Needle and Thread Society, as well as many others given privately. In 1883, the high oak pews (of personal ownership) were removed, and chairs substituted, so making it a "free-seated" Church, and holding about 1,000 worshippers. In 1888 the Organ was enlarged by private subscription, and in 1890 the Chancel floor was laid with black and white marble, the gift of a parishioner. The floor of the Sanctuary has been re-paved with marble; the carving of the Sedilia, &c., completed; a Chiming apparatus added; new Heating arrangements have been made, &c., &c.; these interior embellishments and improvements involving a cost of some £10,000. Attached to the Church is an endowment of £18 18s. 0d. yearly, given by Mr. Philip Box, for the repair and maintenance of the organ. A Reredos of interesting character was given by the Needle and Thread Society in 1904: the design is the Nativity of our Lord; on the scroll are the words: "Peace on earth, goodwill towards men." The Register of Baptisms and Burials date from the year 1561; Marriages from 1559. There is also in the Church a Latin Bible presented by Archdeacon Ruding in the 14th Century (see chapter *re* same).

The LIVING is a Vicarage, of the net yearly value of £280, with residence, in the gift of the Bishop of Oxford; it has been held since 1899 by the Rev. Philip Proctor Goldingham, who is also Chaplain to the Buckingham Union Workhouse, and Surrogate.

Before 1445, Buckingham was a Chapelry attached to the neighbouring Church of King's Sutton, but was at that date made a separate Vicarage. The great tithes, together with the Manor of Gawcott, were appropriated to a Prebendal stall in Lincoln Cathedral, called the Prebend of Sutton-cum-Buckingham, once held by the illustrious William of Wykeham (founder of New College, Oxford), but surrendered to the Crown in 1547.

The VICARAGE HOUSE is an ancient building, supposed to have been built in the reign of Charles II. It stands on a site originally given to the benefice, when it was first constituted a Vicarage in the year 1445, and the present Vicarage Garden, sloping down to the River Ouse, appears to be precisely the ancient "Field of Walnuts" of that early date. In the large dining room is a beautiful and massive chimney-piece, finely designed and carved out of slabs of rude marble, discovered in the parish, and presented by the Marquess of Buckingham to the Vicarage.

A SCHOOL CHAPEL of stone, in the Early English style, after a design by the late G. E. Street, Esq., R.A., was erected in 1865 on Bone Hill, to serve the joint purpose of a Day School and a Mission Chapel for the working people of that portion of the town, but is now used solely as a Mission Chapel, and will seat 60 persons.

At the North end of the parish is another MISSION CHAPEL (of iron and wood), built in 1872 on part of the grounds of the Nursing Home, and seating 80 persons.

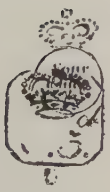
We the Minister and Church Warden of the Parish and Parish Church of Buckingham in the County of Bucks Do hereby Certify That Newman Williatt of Buckingham aforesaid Gentleman on Sunday the Thirty First Day of July last did receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the Parish Church aforesaid immediately after Divine Service and Sermon according to the Usage of the Church of England In Witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our Hands the Sixth Day of October 1785.

Wm. Eyre — {Minister of the Parish and Parish Church aforesaid

Robt. Miller — {Church Warden of the said Parish and Parish Church

James Jones and John Daniel Do severally make Oath That they did see the said Newman Williatt in the above written Certificate named And who now present hath delivered the same into this Court Receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the Parish Church aforesaid And that they did see the said Certificate subscribed by the said Minister and Church Warden.

James Jones
John Daniell



[Mr. Williatt was "Bailiff" in 1785, and this Certificate is reproduced merely as a record of what was then officially required.]

Vicars of Buckingham since 1862:

Rev. Henry Roundell, M.A.; resigned through ill health, 1862.
Rev. W. Foxley Norris, appointed 1862; left for Witney, 1879.
Rev. F. G. Kiddle, appointed 1879; left for Brightwell, 1899.
Rev. P. P. Goldingham, appointed 1899; present Vicar.

(For list of previous Vicars see Mr. Roundell's Lecture, 1857.)

The original Organ, which was presented by the late Philip Box, Esq., was erected in the Western gallery at the beginning of the present century, and bore this inscription: "Georgius King, Londini, Fecit 1801. No. 24, Marsham Street, Westminster." About the year 1820 pedals were added by Messrs. Bevington & Co., of London, and forty years afterwards (when a choir was first formed) some further alterations were made by Messrs. Squire & Co., of London. In 1868 the organ was removed by Mr. Atterton, of Leighton Buzzard, into the organ chamber in the chancel aisle. In 1869 some further alterations were made by Mr. Atterton, and four new stops (double diapason, cornopean, obœ and cremona) were added. In July, 1887, it was decided to clean, repair and enlarge the Organ, and the work was again entrusted to Mr. Atterton. The old front has been replaced by a spotted metal front (open diapason) in a case of Riga oak. New overhanging key boards (3 rows) with splayed jaws (enclosed by a plate-glass door) have been inserted. New action has been used throughout, two extra pedal stops (Bourdon and violoncello) added, the trumpet stop re-cast, the whole of the pipes cleaned and re-adjusted, new and larger bellows substituted and placed on a platform in the vestry, by which arrangement increased accommodation is given for the Choir. The old organ front is now re-erected at the East end of the organ chamber, and the open diapason on the pedal organ is placed in the arch at the East end of the North aisle. Organist, Mr. H. Young (appointed 1871).

EAST WINDOW OF BUCKINGHAM CHURCH (1780).

PART OF PRESUMED "COFFYN" OF ST. RUMBOLD.

THE CHAPELS.

IN addition to the Parish Church, there are three Nonconformist places of public worship and a Roman Catholic College. The largest of these is the CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH or Chapel, a semi-gothic or Early English edifice in Church Street, erected in 1857 at a cost of £2,000. It is calculated to seat over 600 persons. Adjoining the same is a picturesque range of Sunday Schools and Class Rooms added in 1876-9, at a cost of over £1,600. The whole block is stone built—a very worthy contribution to the public buildings in the town. The School foundation stone is inscribed as follows:

"THIS MEMORIAL STONE WAS LAID BY
W. H. FRENCH, ESQ., J.P.
JUNE, 1876."

The WESLEYAN CHAPEL, in Well Street, is a stuccoed and slated building, erected in 1782, and enlarged in 1834 to accommodate 350 persons. In the year 1877, extra Class Rooms were built at the back of the Chapel. (See paragraph *re* Castle Hill for interesting particulars about some "foundations" unearthed at this time.)

The BAPTIST CHAPEL in "Podd's Lane" (Maids Moreton Road), is brick built and stuccoed. It was erected by subscription (£900) in 1842, and has seating accommodation for about 250. There is a burial ground adjoining, but now disused. The building has been used as a place of worship for many years past by the Primitive Methodists, but no services are held at the present time in the chapel. Adult immersions were at one time practised here to the great amusement of the "small boys" of the period. (N.B.—Since the foregoing was written the freehold has been sold to Mr. J. R. Gough.)

Services are held at the ROMAN CATHOLIC COLLEGE, a brick and slated building erected in the year 1894, on the London Road just outside the town, but of course they are of a semi-private character. The following inscription is engraved on the foundation stone of this building:

D.O.M.

✠

Sub Tutela S. Bernardine Senesis.
Sum. Pont. Leone XIII. Victoria Regnante.
Me Posuit Revinus Arthurus Riddell.
Episcopus Northamptoniensis.
Pridie Idus Jumb, A.D. 1894.

About half a century ago there was a considerable sect of "Quakers" in Buckingham, with a Chapel in High Street and burial ground adjoining, but "The Friends" having all either left the town or died out, the Chapel has now been converted to commercial purposes, the burying place still being preserved intact, but of course not now used for sepulture.

SAINT RUMBOLD'S COFFIN.

UNDER the will of Richard Fowler, in 1477, a coffin was ordered to be made for the above Saint, in the following terms:—

> "I will that in the same aisle there be made of newe a Tomb or Shrine for the said Sainte, and upon the said Tomb I will that there be set a coffyn or a chest, curiously wrought and gilte, as it apperteyneth, for to lay in the bones of the said Sainte."

This, of course, was in the aisle built by Fowler in the old Church, and it is a question what became of the said coffin when the Church was destroyed on the 26th March, 1776. Some few years ago, however, the late Mr. J. Harrison, jun., happened to notice in a cottage close to the old church site, a piece of carved wood which he felt convinced upon examination was one side of the above coffin. He bought it, and had it very carefully cleaned, and restored it himself where faulty. A photo of it is here given, and the reader will see the great probability there is of this being a true conjecture. In a memo. made at the time, and affixed at the back, Mr. Harrison

says: "Piece of carving found in a partition nailed on as a patch to cover a hole, and plastered with several old layers of whitewash. Is this one side of 'The Coffyn'?"

SAINT RUMBOLD'S WELL.

MR. ROUNDELL, referring to this subject in his Lecture (page 3), records that "as was the custom of those days, several churches, wells, and springs were dedicated to this Saint. One of his wells was at Astrop in the parish of King's Sutton; three at Brackley, and *several* at Buckingham." He afterwards speaks of one near the "Cross Keys," Lenborough Road, having been filled up in the year 1830, and the only one now remaining of any note is the spring enclosed and protected by the little "Conduit House" near the Goods Station (on the opposite side of the Tingewick road). This building was erected in 1623 by William and Mary Lambard (as a stone in the wall with their initials on bears testimony to), and the leaden pipes conveying the water from there to "Castle House" (now the residence of Mr. Herbert Bull), are also stamped with the same initials.

Although the Conduit House was not built till 1623, the "Spring" is shewn in Speed's map of 1610 (see block of same herein), though by a singular incident he failed to engrave the letter V against it to correspond with the reference at side of his map; but in a very ancient tracing of a part of same for a similar map by Nicholas Blaen (formerly in the possession of the Rev. F. G. Kiddle), the V *is* duly inserted against the site of the Spring. Moreover, the Compiler of these "Notes" has seen a copy of the Deed giving the right to the owner of Castle House to cross the Tingewick and Brackley Roads with the water piping, as follows:—

"1667, January 22nd.—By Indenture . . . The Bailiffe and Burgesses of the Borough of Buckingham, for the consideration therein mentioned did give and grant to the said Wm.

Lambert, full license and authority to continue certain pipes of lead over the highway from Castle Mills towards Tingewick, and also from Fowler's End towards Ratley, also across the River Ouse, as they were then laid, and to continue same from *St. Rumbold's Well* into the dwelling of the said Wm. Lambert, &c., &c."

Another of his reputed wells was situated at the head of "Well Street" and of "St. Rumbold's Lane," but this was filled in and built over when the present Congregational Schools were erected.

St. Rumbold was a rather mythical Saint, said to have been the son of a British King by a Christian Princess, born at King's Sutton, lived only three days, but during that time said to have been baptized, and immediately expired, leaving directions to be buried at King's Sutton for a year, and then at Buckingham "for ever." Multitudes of pilgrims used to visit his shrine, in fact old John Speed, the Historian and Geographer, in 1610, says: "The river circulates the town except on the North, and into it runs the springs of a well, called St. Rumbold's, a child-sainte born at King's Sutton, canonized, and in the church of this town, enshrined with many conceited miracles and cures; such was the happe of those times, to produce saints of all ages and sexes."

BARTON'S HOSPITAL.

BARTON'S HOSPITAL, in Church Street, was founded by John Barton in 1431, for six poor persons, to each of whom he gave a groat per week that they might pray for his soul, and keep his obit, or anniversary, in the parish church, in which church, by his will, he founded a chantry at the altar of St. James. The chantry was suppressed at the reformation, but the Hospital remains in the shape of Almshouses for six poor widows. The founder of the chantry was buried in St. Rumbold's aisle in the old parish church. In the Parliamentary Returns of 1786, some land is stated to have

BARTON'S HOSPITAL AND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

OAK STALL ENDS FROM THE OLD CHURCH.

been given by the will of Dorothy Dayrell, dated 1583, to six poor women resident in six tenements called Barton's Hospital. This land was at that time vested in Lord Sackville and another, and produced £5 4s. 0d. yearly. The income of the almshouses now consists of this rent-charge, and the dividends on £100 Consols given by Mrs. Elizabeth Gray, of Buckingham, who died in 1856, to be expended in the purchase of coal for the use of the inmates.

The old tenements of 1431 were pulled down and rebuilt in 1701, as is simply recorded on a stone tablet. There is a considerable plot of garden ground at the back, divided into six strips, on which each occupier can grow her own vegetables.

ST. JOHN'S ROYAL LATIN SCHOOL.

THIS School is stated to have been founded by Dame Isabel Denton in 1540, who gave by will four marks yearly to a Priest to teach children in augmentation of his means of living. The School was under the management of the Corporation (see names of School Masters elected by them) until the Corporation Act altered this, and placed it under certain Charity Trustees. The Schoolroom is the oldest building in the town, and was erected by Matthew Stratton (who was Archdeacon of Buckingham from about 1219 to 1268), and dedicated to St. John Baptist and Thomas à Beckett, as a Chantry Chapel. Though used as a Schoolroom, the Chapel preserves many of its original features, including the recessed Norman doorway with characteristic zig-zag ornament, piscina, and an aumbry, etc. We learn from Mr. Roundell's Lecture (1857) that in the lapse of years the Chapel became dilapidated, and the roof falling in, the ground floor was dug up and utilised by one of the neighbours as a vegetable garden! Both in the garden and courtyard human remains have at times been found, shewing that at some period it has been used as a Cemetery.

In the year 1857, it was found necessary to appeal for subscriptions to put the buildings in repair, and the following copy of the circular then issued gives considerable information about the institution :—

ST. JOHN'S ROYAL LATIN SCHOOL OF BUCKINGHAM.

Founded by Edward VI., 1552.

An endeavour is now made to repair and restore to a state more decent and fitting to the town of Buckingham (of which it is a most interesting and ancient building), the room used for the Latin School. Its Norman doorway dates back as far as 1260, when the building was originally erected as a Chantry Chapel, by Mathew Stratton, Archdeacon of Buckingham; and in 1471, it was rebuilt by Prebendary Ruding. The East window and one upon the South side, now blocked up, are evidently his work, and several oak stall-ends from the Chancel of the former Parish Church (still preserved in the Schoolroom) exactly coincide with the date of this window.

At the dissolution of the Religious Houses in 1548, this foundation shared the fate of its neighbours; but in 1552, 3rd Edward VI., it was converted to its present use, and endowed with a rent charge of £10 8s. $0\frac{3}{4}$d. per annum payable out of the Exchequer. This sum is (with the exception of the use of the dwelling house) the sole endowment of the Master, who must instruct six foundation boys in the English and Latin languages free of charge. After the fall of the Parish Church in 1776, much of the timber from it was used for a new roof to this Schoolroom, which, for five years, was used for Divine service (half the congregation attending in the mornings and the other half in the afternoons). At that time a gallery was erected round the sides of the building, and subsequently an entire floor laid across the room, supported on the gallery pillars, so that the original building was divided into two rooms, the upper of which was used for the School and the lower as a store or cellar. This floor has been removed, the ground floor newly laid, and a heating flue and apparatus laid down by the present Master.

Attached to the present Schoolroom, on the North side, is the Master's house; upon this site stood the dwelling of the Chantry Priest, subsequently the residence of the School Masters, but this house was burnt down in 1685, and the present edifice erected by Mr. Alexander Denton in 1690, whose Coat of Arms may still be seen over the door. Provision was made for the tenantable repair of these premises by payment of dilapidations, and upon the decease of the Rev. Wm. Eyre in 1830, a sum of upwards of seventy pounds was paid on this account. Since that date the

house gradually went to decay through the need of repair, but upon the death of the late Master in 1855, in reduced circumstances, it was found necessary to put the dwelling house into complete order, and the cost of this, together with the expenses of the appointment of the Master, amounted to upwards of ninety-five pounds.

No appeal for public aid was put forth in 1855, for it was felt by the Trustees that such an appeal in the existing state of the School would be premature, and though anxious for the revival of this decayed foundation, they thought that their endeavours to re-establish the School would not have met with the desired success. The experience of the last two years has proved these forebodings to have been groundless, and the Committee can now rest their claim to support with confidence on the gradual progress which the School has made in the estimation of the public, and their conviction that by the repair and improvement of the Schoolroom and premises, they are providing in perpetuity a place of sound instruction and useful knowledge for the town and neighbourhood of Buckingham.

It is now intended to repair and plaster the walls, to open Archdeacon Ruding's window, to put a new stone head to the doorway, to remove the present flat ceiling, thus opening out the timber of the roof and adding to the healthiness and ventilation of the building; and to erect a new bell turret according to a design kindly given by G. G. Scott, Esq.

The sum of one hundred pounds will be found necessary to liquidate the debt and complete these improvements, and of this sum a portion is already in hand, raised by a liberal donation from the Archdeacon of Buckingham, by gifts from personal friends of the Master, and by the proceeds of two Lectures given in aid of the Repair Fund. More than seventy pounds are still required, and the following gentlemen have formed themselves into a Committee, to which the Master, and Mr. Henry Hearn, have consented to act as Secretaries.

The Master of the School.	Mr. George King.
The Vicar of Buckingham.	Mr. Chandler.
The Mayor of Buckingham.	Mr. H. Hearn.
Mr. Humphreys.	

Contributions may be paid to any Member of the Committee at the Bucks and Oxon, or the London and County Banks at Buckingham.

The following copy of a record in the Schoolroom dated 1879, shews that it had again become necessary to lay out a considerable sum on the premises:—

THIS SCHOOLROOM
WAS RESTORED
BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION,
THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE MASTERS AND BOYS,
AT A COST OF £200,
A.D. 1879,
THREE NEW WINDOWS BEING THEN INSERTED,
THE BELL RE-CAST,
AND A NEW BELL-COTE ERECTED.
SIR GILBERT SCOTT, R.A., *Architect.*
REV. THOMAS COCKRAM, M.A., *Head Master.*

LIST OF MASTERS

(brought forward and continued from Mr. Roundell's list), when the Master of the School in 1857 was

The Rev. T. R. I. Laugharne, M.A., who left in 1861,

and was suceeded by

The Rev. Louis Borrissow (Curate), appointed in 1861,

and was succeeded by

Mr. Thomas Cockram (of Gawcott School), appointed in 1871,

(Mr. Cockram studied for the Church during his Head Mastership, and was ordained in 1881).

and was succeeded by

Mr. R. C. McCulloch, appointed in 1891.

He failed in 1895, and temporary arrangements had to be made to keep the school open till Mr. W. Matthew Cox, of Bletchley School, was appointed in 1896. He carried on the school till, on 1st August, 1907, it was transferred, under arrangement with the Trustees (see Scheme No. 152, Board of Education, 1907), to newly erected school premises built by the County Education Authorities on the Chandos Road. Mr. Cox, however, in 1908, accepted an appointment at a school in Somerset, and Mr. Wm. Fuller, M.A. (Cambs.), (of Banbury Technical School), was appointed Head Master.

In consequence of this transfer, the Trustees have sold off the "1690" residence to an adjoining owner for £330, and he is entirely re-modelling same; but the Chantry Chapel

THE OLD ST. JOHN'S ROYAL LATIN SCHOOL.

will probably be confided to the care of the "National Trust for the preservation of Ancient Buildings."

The plain oak pannelling lining the Chapel walls is said to have come out of Lillingstone Dayrell Church—but the pew ends, now used as desks, (and alluded to in the foregoing circular), are more specifically described by the Rev. Hastings Kelke on page 66 of the first number of "Bucks Records." He writes: "Lyson says the ancient pews still remain, but this is a curious mistake. When the Parish Church fell down in 1776 all the materials were sold, and from the general wreck about eight or nine pew ends were purchased by the then Master of this School and placed for ornaments' sake in the Boys' Schoolroom. It is curious that Lipscomb does not mention that this building was originally an ecclesiastical structure, although he gives a woodcut of it from which the accompanying illustration is taken."

THE NATIONAL SCHOOL.

THIS building, in School Lane, was erected in 1819. It was originally designed to be built on a site near the Barracks in Stowe Road, but the present position was eventually selected in preference. It was extensively improved in 1856 at a cost of £400, and when later a School Board was established here, the Vicar (Rev. W. F. Norris) by great exertion raised funds sufficient to remove the roof and add an upper floor throughout the whole length of the building and so double the cubical capacity. (See memorial stone: "18 - Tu Rex Glorie Christe - 72.") The Girls' School was taken upstairs and the whole of the ground floor devoted to the Boys' School and class rooms, thus providing sufficient accommodation for the entirety of the Borough children. Actual average attendance: boys 90, girls 100. A further improvement was quite recently effected by the addition of a large playground (mainly through Mr. Ezra Ward's efforts),

thus obviating the necessity of the children congregating in the streets in play hours.

On the opposite side of the road there is an INFANTS' SCHOOL, which was erected by subscription in 1863. It is a red brick structure with tiled roof and is enclosed from the street by iron palisading, etc. The average daily attendance is 85 infants of both sexes.

The BOARD SCHOOLS, in Well Street, were erected in 1879 by the then School Board, the Borough Rates being charged with a £3,500 loan for the purpose. "School Boards" as such being abolished in 1906, the management of all three Schools was taken over by a Committee, and the names embodied under the term "Council Schools."

"KIRBY'S CORNER."

PERHAPS one of the greatest street improvements ever made in our old Borough was the cutting back of this Corner. It was effected through the generosity of the late Lord Addington, who supplied the necessary funds, and the late Alderman James Harrison, jun., who originated the idea and arranged the transaction. In 1862, about 15 square yards of freehold land was purchased for £100 from the Charity Trustees, who owned the old corner confectioner's shop (opposite the Town Hall), and by throwing the same into the roadway, the approach to the Market Square at this point was widened about 9 feet. A most dangerous and awkward corner was thus transformed into the present graceful sweep round towards the Station. On the old premises being pulled down, the stones used in the new walling were procured by John Munday (the builder), from a disused barn on the London Road, which had in its early glory been used as a "*Buckingham Theatre.*" Some of the decorations on the walls were still in evidence when the place was thus disposed of.

THE SHORT BRIDGE (WOOLPACK).

Photo by L. Varney & Co., Buckingham.

LONDON ROAD BRIDGE ("LONG BRIDGE").

"GAS HOUSE CORNER."

A SOMEWHAT smaller but equally valuable roadway improvement has recently been made at the Gas Works' frontage, where an awkward angle in the former street wall has been surrendered to the public roadway. The Corporation have taken down that part of the original bridge wall, and, by arrangement, built for the Company the new brick wall, thus throwing a strip nearly a yard wide into the roadway at the point where the street line bends very sharply, and insuring greater safety for motor and other traffic, particularly at lighting-up time.

BRIDGES OVER THE RIVER OUSE.

THE WOOLPACK BRIDGE.—This was originally a stone-built bridge, on low arches, of full cartway width (as shown in Speed's Map of Buckingham, 1610). It was called "The Sheriff's Bridge," and was the old Coach Road approach from London. When this bridge fell into disrepair, a new main road was cut through the "Jolly Yeoman" property; the London Road Bridge was built, and the "New Inn" and the row of adjoining houses were erected. A "Ford" was then made near the "Woolpack Inn," and a wooden trussed foot-bridge (resting on stone abutments) was built on part of the old site (as shown in Richard Chandler's view of Buckingham, published about 1850). This new wooden structure, however, in time became rotten, and was replaced by the present pretty iron lattice Foot-bridge, with new stone abutments in 1864 (see photo). To enable this improvement to be carried out, a £200 loan was borrowed from the Bucks & Oxon Bank. This was charged on the rates, and finally paid off in 1872. This bridge was in the first instance floored with boards covered with asphalt, but the damp gradually rotted the boards, and they were replaced by the present open steel strips about 1880.

THE LONDON ROAD BRIDGE, or the "Long Bridge," as this fine piece of stonework is called, was erected by the Marquis of Buckingham, a great benefactor to the town. A portion of the house now occupied by Mr. Smith, photographer (then Liddington's), was cut back to make an approach from the Market Square. It is said that the bridge was opened with much ceremony by the Marquis, and that a ludicrous incident happened, when a Thornborough man watching his opportunity passed through the *posse* of special constables, and before he could be caught, had crossed the bridge, and said *he* was the first man to go over it!

THE LORD'S BRIDGE (Prebend End, on the road to Gawcott).—This was originally a sort of wooden pile bridge, often under water in time of flood, with a boarded footway. The present brick double-arched bridge was erected about 1846, when the then existing course of the river was filled up by the new railway embankment, and the present channel was cut.

THE TINGEWICK ROAD BRIDGE.—This bridge took the place of a former one called the "Castle Bridge," and was built about 1851. For this the Borough borrowed a £300 loan from Messrs. Bartlett & Co., and the County defrayed the other half of the cost (see Borough balance sheets). The Borough debt was paid off in 1863. It is a very useful bridge, as, in addition to the road traffic to the villages out that way, it carries a lot of heavy van loads proceeding to and from the Goods Station, L. & N.-W. Railway. *(See next chapter for account of an accident on this Bridge).*

THE RAILWAY.

AT the time of Mr. Roundell's Lecture (1857) the branch of the L. & N.-W. RAILWAY from Verney Junction to Buckingham and on to Banbury had been opened about 7 years, but as it was not connected exactly with the

THE BRIDGE AND "FLOSH," GAWCOTT ROAD.

TINGEWICK ROAD BRIDGE ("CASTLE BRIDGE").

Photo by Varney & Co.

"Ancient" History of the Borough he does not allude in any way to it. By 9 & 10 Victoria, "Session 1846," an Act with the short title "The Buckinghamshire Railway (Buckingham and Brackley Junction) Act, 1846," was projected, arranging for the "London and Birmingham" Railway Company to "construct the line, to provide locomotive stock, and to be responsible for execution of powers of the Act, upon an Agreement (with a view to the economical and convenient working of the Railway), that they take a lease of it in perpetuity at such a rent as shall bring in 4 per cent. per annum upon the cost to the promoters." How it was settled to continue the line on to Banbury the Compiler has not yet been able to ascertain. The Station with the booking office was in the first instance placed on the Lenborough Road (or Mount Pleasant) side of the line, and only a small wooden waiting shed erected on this side where the present Station now stands. When, however, the late Duke of Buckingham, in 1853, created the "Chandos Road" across the fields up to the line, it was found very desirable to bring the booking office over to the same. The present Station was built, and the former approach from Lenborough Road closed. The Railway Company also, about 1861, made the connecting link between the new Chandos Road and the existing Gawcott Road, so that passengers from that side of the country could drive up the "Station Road" (as it is named) to the new booking office. This private road was found also to be a great public convenience for general traffic, and the Railway Company having in the year 1898 recognised this fact, declined to continue keeping the road in repair, though they had hitherto done so at their sole cost. A complete deadlock arose, as the road had never been taken over formally by the Corporation, and the surface became so uneven as to be dangerous. Mainly, however, by the personal exertions of Alderman J. T. Harrison with the railway authorities at Euston, acceptable terms were eventually arranged between

the Company and the Corporation. The road was repaired, drained, and a footpath added at the Company's cost, and "STATION ROAD" then became an ordinary borough "main" roadway. Quite recently the Railway Company has erected a row of workmen's cottages for the accommodation of their employees in what was formerly the old station approach yard.

In some reminiscences Mr. Thos. Baker has favoured the Compiler of these "Notes" with, he relates: That the first engine (christened "Trio") was brought by road (with horse team) from Wolverton, and lodged for one night in the Market Square *en route* to the Goods Station next morning; no end of people turned out to see the engine drawn down Castle Street and round the mill corner, great amusement being created by the load getting stuck when it reached the narrow part of the bridge, a considerable part of the parapet (on the Mill House side) being knocked down into the narrow water channel there, and the engine itself being within a few inches of following suit! He says further that, after the Bath Lane bridge had been up some little time, the arches collapsed with a crash which was heard all over the town. Hundreds of trucks laden with earth from the Benthill cutting had passed over these arches, and the fall occurred almost immediately after a train of them had passed by. He also says that where the present wooden trussed girder bridge crosses the line at Benthill, originally brick arches were built, which, after they had been up some considerable time, fell down wholesale, so the present wooden causeway was erected instead.

BUCKINGHAM STATION has been occasionally the scene of public functions, receptions by the Mayor and Corporation of Royalty at times; two other receptions being on the return of the Duke of Buckingham, after five years' Governorship of Madras, 10th February, 1881, and again on the occasion of his second marriage, 17th February, 1885, an address being presented to His Grace each time.

BRACKLEY ROAD.

31 George 3rd, c. 105.

AN

ACT

FOR

Amending and widening several pieces of Road and opening and making several pieces of New Road therein described, so as to make a convenient carriage road from Buckingham, through Brackley to join the Daventry Turnpike Road near Banbury.

Whereas the Road leading from the Town Hall in Buckingham to the present Turnpike Road in the Town of Brackley in the County of Northampton is greatly out of repair, and in some parts narrow and incommodious for Travellers and Carriages, and cannot be effectually mended by the ordinary course of Law, etc., etc.

May it therefore please your Majesty, etc.

This Act shall commence 4th July, 1791, and shall remain in force for 21 years.

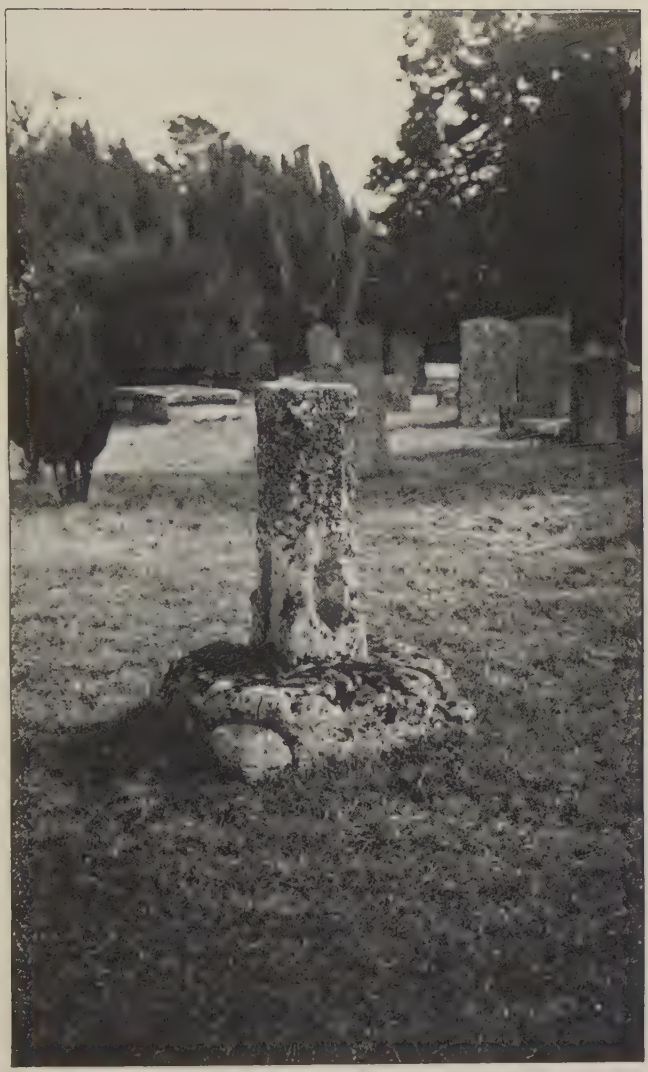
Trustees appointed for making this Road, etc., from the *Market House* in Buckingham to Brackley, etc.

THE CONDENSED PEPTONIZED MILK AND COCOA FACTORY

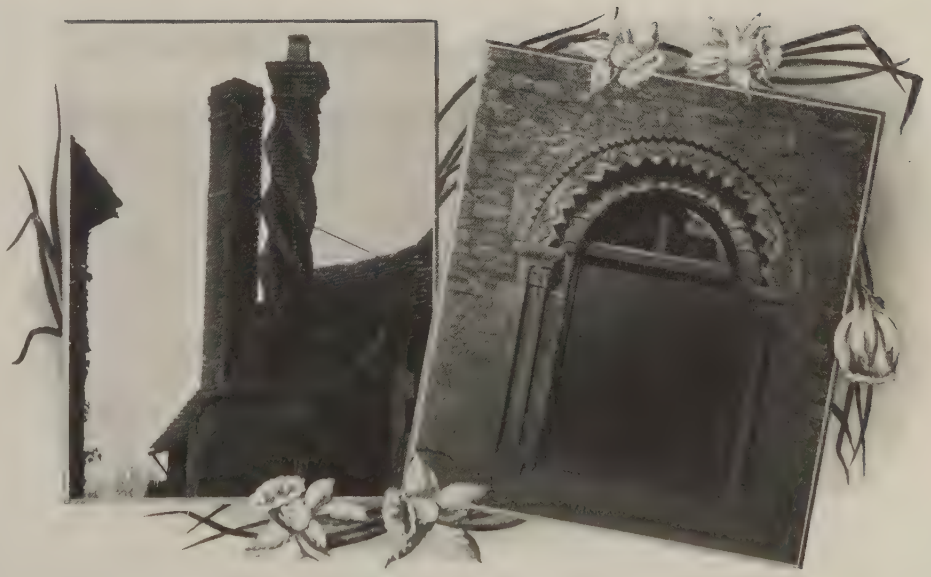
IS one of the most flourishing local manufacturing works, having had two enlargements during the period of Capt. Hooker's management, whereas the previous existence of the building had been vicarious. Originally it was the site selected for a Hunting Establishment, under the denomination of the "*Buckingham Hotel Company*," but this idea was abandoned. It then became the "*Iron Foundry*,"

with the idea of manufacturing ploughs, harrows, rolls, &c., locally, instead of importing them from other districts. The Manager, however (a theorist), invented and manufactured instead steam road cars (see full description in "Sheehan's History of Bucks,") but though many of his ideas have since been brought into successful use, he lived before the invention of petrol. Hence his business came to grief, and the place was sold and dismantled. It was next fitted up as a Steam *Corn and Cake Mill* by Messrs. Beards Bros.; unfortunately, however, the acting Director, Mr. Robt. Beards, died, and the undertaking died too. The premises again came into the market, and were purchased by Mr. A. C. Rogers. Under his management, for some years the "*Bucks Direct Dairy Supply Co.*" consigned a large amount of farm produce to wholesale London establishments, such as Shoolbred & Co., and others, but eventually (as the Londoners claimed too great a share of the profits) this idea was abandoned, and the premises were sold in the year 1892 to the Condensed Peptonised Milk Co., Ltd., now trading under the title of "Thew, Hooker & Gilbey, Ltd." This Company receives a large quantity of milk from the beautiful pastures of the district, and from which a considerable variety of milk products are made.

About a century ago a local *Marble Factory* was established at this site, and the stones, of which Capt. Hooker's residence is built, were dug on the spot. Several of the tombs in the Old Churchyard were worked in marble from this Quarry, but it was a very hard and expensive material to deal with, and immediately the duty was taken off foreign marbles, it did not pay to work it, and the industry died out. It was grey or dove coloured, and was of very handsome appearance when worked and polished.



THE MARKET CROSS.



TWISTED CHIMNEY, MANOR HOUSE.

NORMAN DOORWAY, OLD LATIN SCHOOL.

THE MARKET CROSS OF BUCKINGHAM.

THIS CROSS anciently stood in the HORSE FAIR, West Street, upon an open space of ground nearly opposite the mansion built by William and Mary Lambert, in which King Charles I. was entertained in June, 1644; now the property and residence of Herbert Bull, Esq. (See chapter on "Castle House.") "The steps and part of the Shaft of the Cross are stated to have remained in their original position till the end of the last century, and to have been then removed into the garden of a publichouse adjoining, called 'The Dun Cow,' and converted into a pedestal for a sun-dial. In 1844 the Cross was taken by the late Mr. Loveridge to Preston Bissett, four miles from Buckingham, and his son subsequently conveyed it to Lillingstone Lovell, near Whittlebury. Upon leaving Lillingstone to reside in a distant part of the country, Mr. Loveridge presented this Cross to his relative, the Rev. W. Perkins, of Twyford, by whose liberality this interesting fragment of antiquity has been restored to Buckingham. It was brought back in March, 1858; was then temporarily placed in the Vicarage garden, and has now, it is hoped, reached its final destination. As the piece of ground on which it originally stood has been long enclosed, and the exact site lost, the Cross is now placed in a conspicuous position in the Old Churchyard (some years since closed by Order in Council), and it marks the spot which was once the Western entrance to the former Church, demolished after the fall of the spire in the year 1776. The base of the Cross, in its present condition, measures two feet seven inches square, by ten inches high, and the shaft is two feet six inches high by ten inches in diameter. The corners are chamfered; and the mouldings, ornamented with the four-leaved flower pattern, indicate the fourteenth century, the period of Decorated architecture, as the date of its construction."

H. R.

(Henry Roundell, Vicar of Buckingham, 1862.)

THE OLD "MANOR HOUSE" OR "PREBENDAL HOUSE."

THIS is a quaint old residence adjoining the Vicarage in Church Street, rather a rambling structure, but prettily embosomed in trees on the garden side, and now and for many years past, owned and occupied by the Misses Baynes. It has one very interesting feature, of which we are enabled to give a photo, the "Twisted Chimney." This has been admired by many visitors to the town, and is almost unique. Occasionally (as the amount of business necessitates it) a "Customary Court" of the Copyhold Manor of "Prebend End and Gawcott" is held on these premises. In the former history of this dwelling it is recorded that Queen Elizabeth, on the occasion of passing through the Borough, dined here about August, 1568.

THE "MANOR OF BUCKINGHAM."

IN "Lyson's Bucks" it is recorded that the "MANOR OF BUCKINGHAM" (*i.e.*, Manorial rights), were leased in 1574 by the "Brocas" family to the Corporation for the term of 999 years at 40s. per annum. (This payment seems now to have become extinct.) This, however, has no connection with the Manor of "Prebend End and Gawcott" quoted above, and refers only to the "Borough," "Bourton Hold," &c.

THE TAN YARD AND WOOL YARD.

AT the date of the publication of Mr. Roundell's Lecture, these two thriving local industries were in full working, but the TAN YARD came to grief in 1861, and though subsequently re-started and conducted for a few years by Mr. Wm. Sowerby, it was, on his death, all dismantled, and the premises let out to a number of small occupiers, for stabling and warehouse room, as now.

WOOL STAPLING is a very ancient local industry, and a special "Wool Hall" once stood on the Market Hill. This Hall fell into decay, however, and the site was utilised for another purpose (*see* "*Shambles*"). Of recent years the trade was conducted at "Bartlett's Wool Yard." These premises were for some generations used as a central depôt for the storage and sorting of wool, as many as 20 men and boys being employed at the work. The industry, however, decayed owing to "centralization," namely the direct transportation of the whole fleeces to Bradford, Yorks (the home of the trade), and the business was discontinued. The premises were then sold to "The Royal Bucks Hussars"; a splendid mess room was built, and the long ranges of warehouses converted partly into stabling and partly into large cooking kitchens with bedrooms over. For some ten years or so the officers occupied the premises during the annual Yeomanry training as headquarters, but now that more reality is put into the work, and the officers and men have to sleep "under canvas," the rooms are only used for public or military functions, and the stabling is converted into a miniature shooting range.

LACE MANUFACTURE.

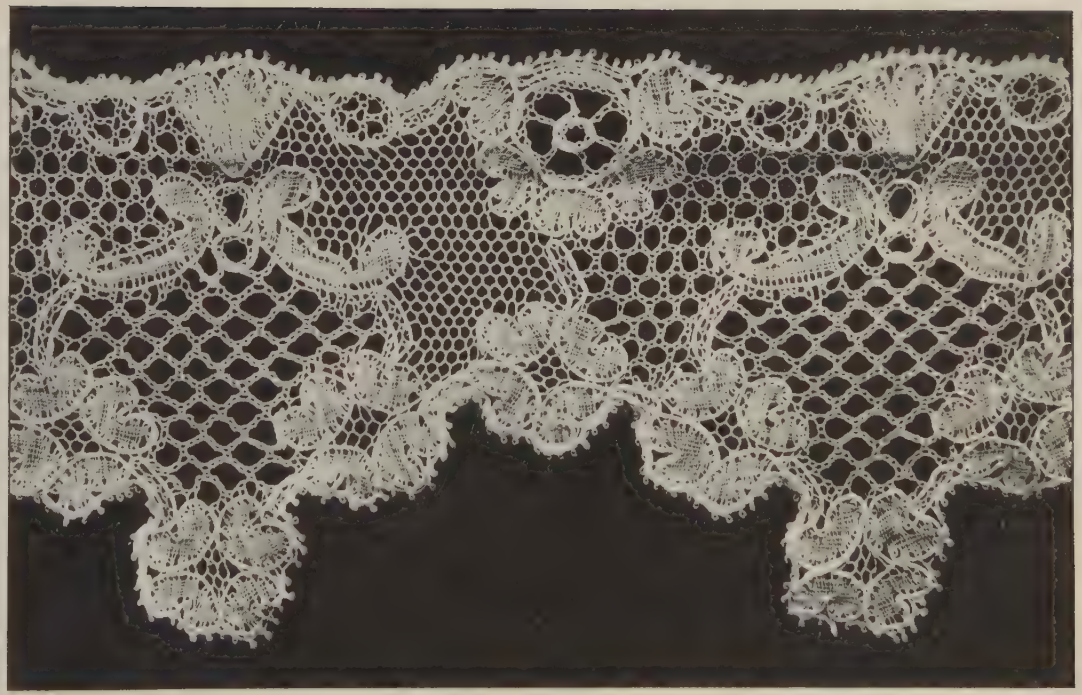
UNDOUBTEDLY one of the most interesting, and one of the oldest, local industries is the art of "Pillow Lace" making. Any trade so entirely dependent upon fashion must have its times both of success and failure, and this has been very much experienced by the women in the town, and in the villages round Buckingham. At the present time there is, however, a fair revival of custom, under the auspices of the "Buckingham Lace Industry" and other agencies. Some 30 years ago, Mr. Richard Viccars, a well-known lace dealer here, employed a worker to make a dress flounce which required 600 bobbins to negotiate. The lace dress worn by the late Duchess of Buckingham at her wedding,

and preserved at Stowe, is a thing which must be seen to be appreciated. The distinguishing feature of the "Buckingham Lace" is that the worker makes both the pattern and the net ground work simultaneously, thereby increasing the beauty and adding greatly to the strength of the article. It is made with thread of almost cobweb fineness, manufactured at Nottingham, and drawn at a slow, but regular, pace through a flame of gas to deprive it of all extraneous film. St. Andrew is the patron saint of the craft, and his anniversary is kept on 30th November. The two lovely engravings have been kindly supplied by Miss Burrowes, of Maids Moreton, Hon. Sec. of the "Buckingham Lace Industry," and she has kindly added the following information :—

"BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LACE."

The art of pillow lace making was in all probability introduced into England during the reign of Henry VI., about 1447, when the influx of Flemish from the Netherlands (fleeing from religious persecution), began to assume large proportions. Amongst these refugees were men of rank and of all sorts, including lace makers, some of the latter settling in Bucks—at Newport Pagnell and Olney in the first instance. The demand for Flemish lace (or Point d'Angleterre) became great in the 17th century, and the English largely monopolised the wearing of same, as the treasures still preserved in many of our ancestral houses abundantly testifies. In Charles II.'s time so much was this so that further Flemish lace makers were induced to come over and settle here, and the output still further increased; the trade also became more firmly established in Bucks. An Act of Parliament was passed prohibiting the introduction into England of lace made in other countries, and subsequently King William and Queen Mary went to the extravagance of spending over £4,000 per annum on lace. Lace making has become hereditary in this neighbourhood, seeming to come naturally to many a Bucks child. Of course there was a great decline in the making of real lace when machine making became an established fact, and it almost became extinct for awhile, but the late Duke of Buckingham made supreme efforts to arouse fresh interest in the art by organising an exquisite exhibition of lace products in a stall at "The Healtheries," Earl's Court, a few years ago. The chief reason the Buckingham Lace Industry has succeeded for many years now, is

SPECIMEN OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LACE.



SPECIMEN OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LACE.

the kind interest taken in the work, and the workers, by those living in the district. Nothing encourages a poor worker more than to know that her lace is appreciated by local patrons as a thing of beauty. Her Majesty the Queen, as well as other members of the Royal Family, have been purchasers, and there appears to be every prospect of a good time again coming for lace. Buckingham lace can hold its own anywhere, and rivals Brussels, and has only to be known to be appreciated and valued.

M. E. B. BURROWES.

In the time of tallow candles it was the custom for the lace worker to make a powerful lens by filling a globular bottle with water, fixing the same at just the right focus between the light and the pillow, and so gaining a brilliant ray on the pattern. Specimens of these "magnifiers" may be seen in the Museum at Aylesbury.

CASTLE HOUSE,

IN WEST STREET (NEAR THE OLD HORSE FAIR).

THIS interesting property, now belonging to, and occupied by, Herbert E. Bull, Esq., was purchased a year or two ago from the Executors of the late Henry Hearn, Esq.

On the occasion of the visit of the members of the Bucks Archæological Society to this part of the county in 1884, Mr. Henry Hearn entertained the company, and read the following history of Castle House:—

"Browne Willis records that in the reigns of Richard II. and Henry IV. this house, called 'Castle House,' was the seat of John Barton, senior, one of the Knights of the Shire. By his will made in 1431, it passed to John Barton, junior, his brother and to his sisters Margaret and Isabel. Afterwards it became the property of William Fowler, Richard Fowler, and Edward Fowler successively, the latter of whom entertained 'Catherine,' first Queen of Henry VIII. She received here

the news of the victory of Flodden Field, 1513. About the year 1592, one Theophilus Adams successfully claimed the estate, under a grant from the Crown, as having been given to superstitious uses: for a sum of £6 13s. 4d. per annum had been charged upon it by John Barton, senior, in favour of a priest, who was to celebrate daily mass at Barton's Chantry in the Church of Buckingham. The trial is reported at length in 'Coke's Reports.'

"In 1619 (time of James I.), William Lambard and Mary his wife were the owners of the property, and made considerable alterations in it. They erected part of the carved mantel over the fire-place dated 1617 (see photo), in what Browne Willis calls the 'Great Parlour,' and they affixed several stones about the premises bearing their initials and the date 1623. They also built a conduit house over St. Rumbold's well, which had then fallen into disrepute as a holy well, and brought the water in leaden pipes half-a-mile for the service of 'Castle House' and appurtenant premises. *(See chapter on St. Rumbold's Well.)*

"After William Lambard's death, his widow married Sir Edward Richardson, and in June, 1644, they received Charles I., who sojourned with them four days. A council of war was held during his Majesty's stay here. The details of this visit were fully described by the late Rev. Henry Roundell in an interesting lecture written and delivered by him during the time of his incumbency of the Vicarage of Buckingham.

"The house was greatly altered in the reign of Queen Anne (about the year 1708) by Mr. Matthias Roger, the then owner, all the front rooms being then re-built. About the year 1835, the property was purchased by Mr. Thos. Hearn from Mr. Philip Box, the representative of the Irish branch of that family. The house was then quadrangular, but the north side was so dilapidated, that upon the advice of Sir Gilbert Scott, it was pulled down and the house thrown open to the garden terraces on that side. Nothing further was done to the house until 1881, when, under the direction of Mr. E. Swinfen Harris as architect, the present occupiers restored the 'Great Parlour' by adding an oak beam to those already spanning the room and by throwing open the north window, which for a period unknown had been shut off by a partition from the other portion of the apartment. They have also put fresh glass into the two windows on the west side of the room."

At the conclusion of the paper, Canon Evetts on behalf of those present thanked Mr. Hearn for his cordial reception and his hospitality to the members of the Society.

OAK MANTEL PIECE, CASTLE HOUSE.

THE BELL FOUNDRY.

ALTHOUGH all vestige of a Bell Foundry having existed in this town had unfortunately disappeared, and all record appeared to have been locally forgotten when Mr. A. H. Cocks, M.A., wrote his book on the "Bells of Buckinghamshire," his research brought to light the fact that a family named *Atton* carried on a successful foundry for some years on a part of the premises in West Street now occupied by Mr. J. K. Tibbetts. The earliest record known was in 1552, when John Appowell was the founder. At his death, he left the business to his second son, "George," and it subsequently passed into the Atton family, and several church bells in the district have the name "Bartholomew Atton" as the founder cast on them, and subsequently there similarly appears Robert Atton and William Atton, up to 1653 A.D., after which the bell foundering here seems to have died out. Much fuller particulars are given in Mr. Cocks' publication before referred to.

THE BARRACKS.

THE building known as "The Barracks," but now no longer used for that purpose, is situate at the foot of the Stowe Road, being a commodious building of stone, erected in 1802 at the sole expense of the Marquis of Buckingham. It was first a store-house for the Royal Bucks Militia, and of late years for the Royal Bucks Yeomanry, containing a residence for the Adjutant, and numerous stables and store-rooms. The regiment consisted of 540 officers and men, commanded by the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, and at one time possessed two six-pounder guns, and subsequently a "gatling gun" equipment, the regiment being re-christened "The Royal Bucks Hussars." All such auxiliary troops are now, however, embodied in the "Territorial Forces," and the glory of the once celebrated Stowe Park Review, with

its attendant county gathering, is now only a pleasant dream of the past.

THE CEMETERY.

AN order having been issued about the year 1853 for closing the Old Churchyard as a burial ground (with the exception of unfilled family vaults), it became necessary to choose a site for a new Cemetery, and the Burial Board eventually decided to buy a plot of land for the purpose on the Brackley Road approach to the town consisting of three acres at a cost of £525. The land having been purchased, conveyed, mounded out, levelled, drained and prepared, at a total cost of £2,750, including a sexton's lodge, two chapels and a mortuary, the Cemetery was opened (and the Church portion consecrated) by the Rev. Samuel Wilberforce, D.D., Bishop of Oxford, on the 14th day of May, 1856. After the ceremony, a public luncheon was held under the presidency of Mr. James Harrison, jun., (Mayor), supported by the Lord Bishop; the Rev. H. Roundell, (Vicar), and the principal inhabitants of the town. It was assumed at the time that the 1879 "consecrated" and the 1125 " undenominational " grave spaces would serve for fifty years, but the consecrated portion became so full by the year 1898 that it was necessary to enlarge the same by the addition of another two acres at the top of the hill, purchased from the Baroness Kinloss for £400; the expense of enclosing, levelling, draining, &c., costing about a similar sum. This was consecrated and opened by Bishop Randall, of Reading, on Sunday, 13th March, 1898. The mortuary chapels are of red and white brick, and slated, and the sexton's house forms a lodge entrance. Singularly enough, the first person to be buried in this Cemetery was "*Mrs. Buckingham.*" At the opening ceremony above referred to, the Bishop, the Vicar and the Mayor each planted a tree near the entrance lodge, but the Bishop's tree only survived, and has now become a handsome ornament to the Cemetery.

WATER WORKS, AND SEWERAGE.

UNTIL the year 1893 the supply of drinking water in this Borough was from about five public, and a large number of private wells; but a few of these becoming contaminated through the introduction of cesspools, it was resolved by the Corporation to have a Local Government Enquiry held, and the result was the adoption of compulsory Sanitary Works, including both Water Supply and Drainage.

THE WATER WORKS were proceeded with first, at a cost of about £9,000, and under Baldwin Latham, Esq., C.E., London, a gravitation scheme to bring water from the hill ground at Akeley into a 60,000 gallon storage tank at Maids Moreton was carried out, the level of the same being high enough to supply nearly all the town.

BUCKINGHAM URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

THIS STONE WAS LAID ON AUGUST 15TH, 1893,
BY
WILLIAM JAMES GOUGH, ESQ., MAYOR.

Members of the Town Council:—

Aldermen:

G. Bennett. T. Ridgway.
E. H. Ridgway. J. W. Thorpe.

Councillors:

W. Bastick. C. Higgins.
J. Barnes. T. Holton.
J. Harper. J. Marshall.
F. Higgens. H. Thorpe.
J. T. Harrison. L. Varney.
G. Harrison.

Town Clerk: T. R. Hearn, Solicitor.

Engineer: Baldwin Latham, M.I.C.E.

Contractor: Henry Hill.

This answered for the first year or two, but it soon became evident that the "collecting area" was much too small, so a 7-inch bore-hole was sunk in the ground already belonging to the Council at the Maids Moreton Reservoir, and water was pumped by steam power into the tank, so making a constant service. This supply, however, in course of years being also found insufficient (as more "connections" were made to the

houses), a further bore-hole was sunk in the year 1908, and publicly opened on 25th September, the size being this time 12-inch, so that a night and day constant full pressure supply can now be maintained.

BUCKINGHAM
URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.
Additional Works.
OFFICIALLY OPENED,
25TH SEPTEMBER, 1908.

F. ADCOCK, ESQ. ... Mayor.
T. R. HEARN, ESQ. ... Town Clerk.
J. SMITH, M.I.M.C.E. ... Engineer.
Contractors: A. C. POTTER & Co.

THE DRAINAGE WORKS were carried out by Messrs. Siddons & Freeman in 1896, as designed by, and under the superintendence of, H. Nicholls, Esq., C.E., Birmingham, at a cost of about £13,000 *(see list of Loans)*. The works comprise the usual house connections running into town mains, for which an artificial fall is created by a sump at the Pumping Station in North End, and the sewage is pumped by two powerful oil engines on to the 7 acre field, lying between the Bourton and Stony Stratford roads, with right of approach from each, which constitutes our Sewage Farm. This was purchased from the Baroness Kinloss for £1,178. Good crops of mangold wurtzel are grown and realize enough materially to recoup the cost of maintenance, etc. Much difficulty was experienced by the contractors in getting the mains in some of the streets properly laid (nearly 20 feet deep in places), there being sometimes too much rock, and sometimes too much water; and it was quite feared that the length from the Woolpack down to the Pumping Station would have to be relaid. But all troubles were eventually got over by the contractors' foreman, named Pickin, and the Clerk of the Works, named Manley, the result being summed up by a local wag: "Pickin swore, Manley prayed, and costs galore, the Council paid!" It remains only to be said that though the blessing of a Water Supply was

twice "christened," no tablet records the completion of the Sewerage Scheme.

The *annual payment* charged on the rates for interest and redemption of the above loans is about £1,500 per annum.

GAS, AND ELECTRIC LIGHT WORKS.

THE GAS WORKS, located at the London Road entrance to the town, were established about 1834. In 1859 it was decided to add a second gas holder (the larger one). Enormous difficulty was encountered in getting the water out of the foundations, but it was at last successfully accomplished by the contractor, Mr. W. H. Tibbetts. The combined capacity of the two gasometers was 30,000 cubic feet of gas; but on the works being bought and taken over by the "Bucks and Oxon District Gas Company," in the year 1907, it was decided to replace the original gasometer near the road by a telescoping one, and so increase the storage capacity. This enabled a great public road improvement to be made by altering the line of the boundary wall and throwing an extra piece of ground into the roadway at an awkward corner. *(See reference to this under heading "Gas House Corner.")*

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT WORKS were started at first in a moderate style in 1888 at the Town Mills. On 29th September, 1897, they were moved to the old "bark barn" at the former Tanyard, and at the expiration of that lease in Michaelmas 1904 (when the Company made a contract to light the streets), they moved into the present central premises in School Lane. For many years a very flourishing Brewery had existed there, but on its being amalgamated with a brewery at Aylesbury, the plant was dismantled and sold, and all the manufacturing done at Aylesbury, sufficient room for maturing ales only being now required here. Within living memory, a charming old

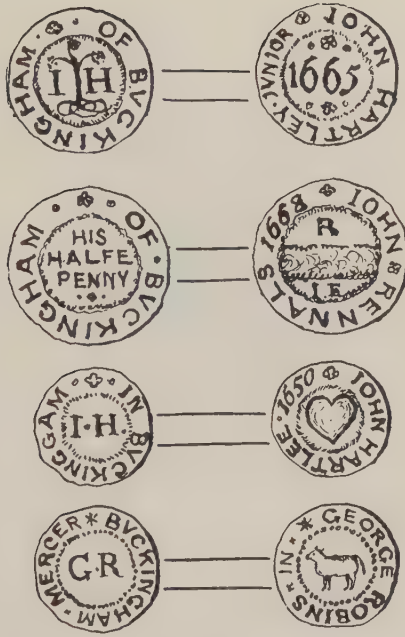
hostelry, known as the "Wagon and Horses," occupied the part which is now a dwelling house on this site, with low-roofed portico and side benches; but when the Brewery was enlarged this was all pulled down and sacrificed, and the license transferred to the corner premises, as it now exists under the new name of the "King's Arms."

BUCKINGHAM TOKENS.

ABOUT 250 years ago a practice arose in this country of allowing tradesmen to issue copper money, the coinage generally, however, having only a local circulation. They bore the tradesman's name, with the date and the name or arms of place of issue; but in 1672 this practice was stopped by the Government. We are glad to be able to give photo engravings of some of these "*tokens*," as they were called, from actual specimens in Mr. Arthur A. Walford's possession. So far as we have been able to gather, the total number issued in Buckingham was about a dozen, as follows:—

Wm. Atton, Draper in Buckingham		...	1663
John Kew, his halfpenny,	„	...	1668
John Hartlee,	„	...	1650
John Rennals,	„	...	1668
John Hartley, Jr.,	„	...	1665
George Robbins, Mercer,	„	...	no date.
Peter Reynolds	„	...	„
Elizabeth Crawley	„	...	1668

Mr. Ratcliff, of Olney, in this county, has made a study of this matter, and has a fine collection.



John Hartlee issued one also undated.

BUCKINGHAM 17TH CENTURY TRADE TOKENS.

THE BOROUGH SEAL.

Mr. John Guillison, of London, in 1724, says of the Swan as an emblem in heraldry:—

> "The Swan is a bird of great beauty, and strength also, and this is reported in honour of him: that he useth not his strength to prey upon or tyrannize over any other fowl, but only to be revenged on such as first offer him wrong, in which case (saith Aristotle) he often subdueth the Eagle."

DUKES OF BUCKINGHAM.

HUMPHREY STAFFORD was in 1445 created Duke of Buckingham by Henry VI. He was slain at the battle of Northampton in 1460, fighting on the King's side.

HENRY STAFFORD, grandson and successor to above was beheaded at Salisbury in 1483.

EDWARD STAFFORD, son of Duke Henry, was attainted for high treason, and beheaded on Tower Hill in 1521.

[After his death the title remained in abeyance for many years.]

GEORGE VILLIERS, a special favourite of King James I., was in 1623 created Duke of Buckingham, he having an estate and residence at Whaddon, Bucks. He was assassinated in 1628.

GEORGE VILLIERS, a son of the foregoing, succeeded to the title on the death of his father. He died in Yorkshire, at the house of a tenant, in April, 1687, after a dissolute life, and issueless, so that the title again became extinct.

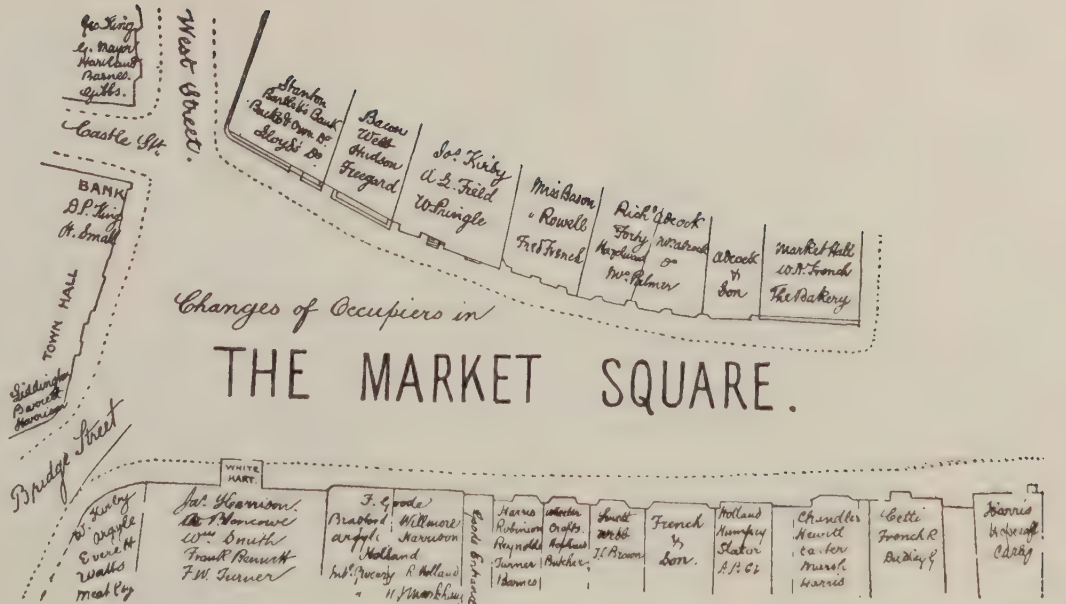
[This was the man of whom the Poet Alexander Pope wrote stinging satire.]

RICHARD GRENVILLE NUGENT CHANDOS TEMPLE, second Marquis of Buckingham, of Stowe House, was created Duke of Buckingham and Chandos in 1822, and died in 1839.

RICHARD PLANTAGENET TEMPLE NUGENT BRYDGES CHANDOS GRENVILLE, only son of above, succeeded to the title, and died in 1866.

RICHARD PLANTAGENET, etc., only son of foregoing, then succeeded to the title, and, dying without male issue, on 26th March, 1889, the title once more became extinct.

[This account is abridged from "*Worthies of Buckingham*," by Robt. Gibbs, published 1888.]


Changes of Occupiers in
THE MARKET SQUARE.
West Street.
Castle St.
Bridge Street
TOWN HALL
BANK
WHITE HART
Good Friday

LOCAL STREET NOMENCLATURE.

IT has been suggested that the fact ought to be noted that we have in this town a "*Chewar*" and a "*Pightle.*" Neither of these terms are mentioned in "Chambers's" Dictionary (modern) nor in "Barclay's" Dictionary (about 100 years old). In "Webster's" Dictionary is given "Pightel or Pightle, a small enclosure," but Chewar is not mentioned even in that comprehensive volume.

Our "Pightle," as is well known, is the strip of land this side of the late Barracks property near the Stowe footway to Chackmore, and the "Chewar" is behind Lloyds Bank.

When the streets of the town were "named," and cast-iron tablets affixed to the walls to denominate the same, some little discussion took place as to the spelling of "Chewar," and the late Rev. T. Cockram wrote a letter on the subject as follows:—

THE ORIGIN OF THE WORD "CHEWAR."

(To the Editor of the "Buckingham Express.")

SIR,—It will be in the recollection of many of your readers that some years ago, when the Ordnance-Survey people were making the necessary measurements for the large Map of Buckingham, they were considerably exercised about the proper spelling of the word "*Chewar*," which they found applied by the inhabitants to the alley between Mr. C. A. Bennett's house and the Bucks & Oxon Bank. Several of the best informed and oldest residents were asked to give their opinions as to the correct spelling of this strange name, and the form which received the greatest amount of support was finally adopted, and in due course permanently recorded in iron, upon the walls!

It would appear that after all the popular verdict was an erroneous one. The most recently issued part of Murray's new English Dictionary, published at the Clarendon Press, includes the word *Chare* which is evidently identical with our old friend *Chewar*. It is curious that this spelling does not occur amongst the forms of the word collected by the Philological Society, which are *Chihera*, *Chere*, *Chare*, *Choyer* and *Chair*. Sir James Murray's definition of Chare is "a local name for a narrow alley or lane."

The earliest spelling which has been discovered is Cherhera in the 13th century, in the documents of William de Glanville, in the Turtee's "History of Durham." One of the extracts is from the "*London Gazette*" of 1707: "A large dwelling house in the Broad Chair in Newcastle-upon-Tyne" will be sold. In Tennant's "Tour of Scotland," 1790, occurs: "The lower Streets and Chares, or Alleys, are extremely narrow." It would be interesting to find out if the local pronunciation, which settled the spelling of the Buckingham alley, can be supported by any papers or documents in the possession of your readers.

Yours, etc.,

T. COCKRAM.

Royal Latin School,
September 24th.

BOROUGH FINANCES.

IT may astonish some of our readers to know that at the present time the loans on the Borough of Buckingham amount to nearly £18,000. A *District Rate* of 1d. in the £1 realises about £50, and a *Borough Rate* about £57. It will be seen from annexed figures that the greater portion of the present rates go annually to meet the repayment of principal and interest on the several loans.

Since the above was written, attention having been called to it, Alderman Henry Thorpe said he had gone into the matter, and found that the total sum that had been borrowed by the Borough was £25,835, and they had paid back about £8,000, so that they owed about £18,000. The rateable value of the Borough was £12,000, and for borrowing purposes this was doubled, so that the borrowing powers of the Borough were £24,000, showing a limit at the present time of £6,000 for further mortgage.

Particulars of the several loans are given from the Municipal Balance Sheet, on next page.

It may be added that at the time the Borough Balance Sheets were first published (about 1840) the average annual amount of receipts and payments was about £500 only, but at that time the road repairing, etc., was administered by "Highway Surveyors," instead of coming into the Borough Accounts. No "School Board" Rate was charged on the Borough Fund; nor had Street Lighting, Water Supply, and Sewerage, come upon the Rates. How grateful ought the present generation to feel for all these additional blessings!

MUNICIPAL LOANS.

	Amount of Loan.	Number of Years for which Loan granted.	Rate of Interest per cent.	Date on which Instalments are due.	Amount of Principal and Interest due per annum.	Amount of Principal paid off to March 31st, 1908.	Amount of Principal paid off from March 31, 1908. to March 31, 1909.	Balance of Loan outstanding March 31, 1909.
Water Works.	£				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Advanced by Public Works Loan Office, 5th Dec., 1892	9,300	30	3½	June 5 Dec. 5	502 0 0	3,537 16 1	302 19 0	5,459 4 11
Sewerage Works.								
Advanced by Bolton Corporation, 2nd March, 1896	1,700 3,000 4,350	50 30 30	3⅜ 3⅛ 3⅛	Mar. 11 Mar. 11 Aug. 31	438 1 11	2,246 19 11	235 19 6	6,567 0 7
Advanced by Public Works Loan Office, 12th Dec., 1898	3,556	30	2¾	June 12 Dec. 12	174 0 0	1,175 4 9	110 2 7	2,270 12 8
Additional Water Works.								
Advanced by Public Works Loan Office, 5th May, 1902	1,530	23	3¼	May 5 Nov. 5	94 18 0	269 4 6	54 16 6	1,205 19 0
Ditto, 2nd March, 1908 ...	500	15	3½	May 5	43 4 0	...	40 10 0	1,209 10 0
Ditto, ditto ..	750	30	3½	Nov. 5	40 14 0	...		
Shambles Loan (Stables), Mar., 1903	250	30	3½	Mar. 25	12 12 2	41 13 8	8 6 8	199 19 8
Secondary Education.								
Advanced by Mr. Ward, Sept., 1906	500	30	3½	Mar. 25 Sept. 25	27 1 0	16 13 4	25 0 0	458 6 8
Grenville Lodge Odd Fellows, 9th Nov., 1907	400	10	4	Mar. 25 Sept. 29	48 18 6	...	50 1 6	349 18 6
Total, £	25,836				1,381 9 7	7,287 12 3	827 15 9	17,720 12 0

THE CHETWODE RHYNE-TOLL.

ALTHOUGH now given up, this ancient right was duly exercised till within about the last 20 years. Tradition says it was granted in 1244 to one *Ralph de Chetwode* for his slaying an enormous wild boar, after 4 hours' severe fighting, which was the terror of the inhabitants of that neighbourhood. It empowered the Lord of the Manor of Chetwode for ever to levy a tax on all cattle and swine passing through the prescribed district, including Chetwode, Barton, Tingewick, Preston, Hillesden, Cowley, Gawcott, Lenborough and Prebend End (Buckingham), during the week between 30th October and 7th November in every year. It was collected by men standing on every road approach to the district, and blowing a horn (made out of a shell) to proclaim the commencement of the toll, and then levying a small sum, said to be a farthing a claw, on any drove passing him, the amount realised at one time reaching about £20 per annum. On the opening of railways, however, throughout the country, the Welsh and other cattle droves decreased so much that the amount collected did not meet the expenses, and Sir Geo. Chetwode therefore called in the conch shells and dropped the toll.

About the year 1810, a large tumulus, or mound, near Tingewick Wood was levelled, and in it was found the skeleton of an enormous boar, the jawbone and some teeth of which were sent to Sir George Chetwode, Bart., to be preserved as a memorial. He had them suitably mounted and put in a glass case, and when an exhibition of curiosities, antique furniture and arms, &c., was organized at Tingewick, in 1887, he kindly loaned them to the committee for inspection by the public. The last collector of the toll was "Cockey Giles," as he was locally known, Superintendent at the Borough Gaol, and he assembled a number of boys on Church Hill, treated them to beer and gingerbread, and then put them on duty.

THE PRESENT CHURCH WITHOUT CHANCEL OR BUTTRESSES (1780).

ANCIENT HAND-BELLS.

BUCKINGHAM A CENTURY AGO

(AS DESCRIBED IN PENNANT AND MATON'S TOURS, 1808).

BUCKINGHAM, the County Town of Buckinghamshire, 16½ miles from Aylesbury and 57 from London by Uxbridge, is seated on the River Ouse, over which it has three stone bridges. It contains 531 houses and 2605 inhabitants, being 1,180 males and 1,425 females, of whom 313 only were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture. This includes the hamlets of Barston, Gawcott and Lenborough. It is supposed to derive its name from Boc—a beech, with which this country formerly much abounded. It is a very ancient town, and was fortified by Edward the Elder in the year 918, against the incursions of the Danes, with a rampart and turret. It had also a Castle on a hill which divides the town, but there are now no traces of it remaining. On this spot an elegant new Church has been built, with a spire (the tower of the old Church having fallen down in 1776, the spire of it, which was reckoned the tallest in England, having been blown down in 1698; but the burying-ground has continued at the old Churchyard, with a chapel only). The inside of the Church is fitted up in elegant style; the altar-piece, representing the transfiguration of Christ, is taken from the celebrated picture of Raphael. It was presented to the parish by the Marquis of Buckingham, whose uncle, the late Earl Temple, contributed very munificently to the building of the Church; his arms are carved over the door, and also his crest is erected as a fane on the new Town Hall. The town consists of one long street, the houses being meanly built, and many of them thatched. There is very little trade or manufacture here, except lace-making, in common with almost the whole county. In the reign of Edward III., one of the staples for wool was fixed here, and there still remains an old house called the Wool Hall. There are several corn and paper mills erected on the river near the town. It has sent two Members to Parliament ever since the reign of Edward VI. Queen Mary

incorporated it with a Bailiff and 12 Burgesses, who are the sole electors of its members. The whole of the County business was formerly transacted at Aylesbury, but, by a late Act of Parliament, the Summer Assizes are held at Buckingham. The Corporation, consisting of a High Bailiff, High Steward, Recorder, 12 Burgesses, Town Clerk, and Mace Bearer, hold a Court here every three weeks for the recovery of small debts. This town has given the title of Duke to several illustrious families. In this neighbourhood is Stowe, the celebrated seat of the Marquis of Buckingham. The town suffered greatly by fire in March, 1725, by which 138 families lost near £38,000. It is a great thoroughfare to Chester, Ireland, &c. Market day on Saturday; very well attended. The living is a Vicarage, value £22.

ANCIENT HAND-BELLS.

ALTHOUGH the chapters in this book treat principally of items actually connected with the Borough only, the following extract from Mr. Cocks' "Bells of the County" may be interesting, as treating of two ancient bells now domiciled in the Borough (see photo engraving):—

Description of two Ancient Hand-bells found near Buckingham.

"These bells, which exactly resemble very large cow-bells, are both in the possession of J. T. Harrison, Esq., of The Poplars, Buckingham, to whose kindness I am indebted for the opportunity of figuring and describing them. The larger specimen was found about 1870, in grubbing Barton Hartshorne Wood (about four miles from Buckingham), and is, like other examples of its class, not 'cast,' but 'fashioned' out of a sheet of metal, bent double (the bend forming the crown or apex of the bell), and rivetted down the sides, a little triangle of metal being left on each side at the bend, which overlaps the join in the sides for an inch or so. A loop handle is fixed in the crown. The sides of the bell are fastened together with five rivets on each side. The crown staple is a loop continuous with the handle outside. The

clapper has no ball, but gradually increases in thickness from its hooked upper end, which is closed round the crown staple, while the outer or free end is slightly rounded off. The smaller specimen was fortunately noticed (and secured) by Mr. Harrison in a heap of old iron, at a sale in September, 1893. It is so similar to the previous example (even to number and position of the rivets) that the one description does for both. There is little doubt, from what is known about other examples, that they were ecclesiastical bells. A very similar one was actually used in Scotland, at Struan, in Athole, as a church bell down to the year 1828. It seems likely, however, that these small bells were originally intended and used as 'sacring' bells rather than as tower bells."

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VOLUNTEER RIFLE CORPS.

THE following letter was issued in 1859, when a scare of invasion by Napoleon III. agitated the country :—

Buckingham,
21st November, 1859.

Dear Sir,

I beg to inform you that the Mayor of Buckingham has appointed a public meeting to be held in the Town Hall, on Saturday next, the 26th instant, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, at which the formation of a Volunteer Rifle Force in this neighbourhood will be taken into consideration. It is hoped it may be convenient to you to be present on the occasion.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
HENRY HEARN.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Corps, held in Buckingham, on Friday, the 2nd of December, 1859—The Mayor of Buckingham in the chair—it was proposed by Sir Harry Verney, Bart., M.P., seconded by the Hon. Percy Barrington, and resolved :

"That all persons desirous of offering their services as Volunteers in the Buckingham Rifle Corps (each man to find his own uniform) be invited to send their names to the Secretary, Mr. Henry Hearn, by twelve o'clock, on Saturday, the 10th of December, to be submitted to the Committee."

And it was proposed by J. G. Hubbard, Esq., M.P., seconded by F. E. Bartlett, Esq., and resolved: That the following information be publicly notified for the guidance of Volunteers:—

Members joining the Corps may quit it by giving fourteen days' notice at any time, when not on actual service.

Members are exempt from Militia ballot, and from service in any other military levy.

The system of drill will be such as not to render the service unnecessarily irksome, or to make demands upon the time of the members that would interfere injuriously with their ordinary avocations.

The Government will provide a sufficient number of rifles for practice: and will, in case of actual service, arm the whole effective force.

The estimated cost of uniform and equipments does not exceed four pounds per man.

A general meeting of Volunteers will be called as soon as sixty names have been enrolled.

No person belonging to any other military service can be enrolled as effective members of the Corps: but such persons may be admitted on the honorary list.

The Committee consists of the following gentlemen:—

The Marquis of Chandos.	The Mayor of Buckingham.
Sir Harry Verney, Bart, M.P.	Major Dewes.
J. G. Hubbard, Esq., M.P.	H. Humphreys, Esq.
The Hon. Richard Cavendish.	Edward Parrott, Esq.
The Hon. P. S. Pierrepont.	P. Box, Esq.
The Hon. P. Barrington.	D. P. King, Esq.
Thomas Fitzgerald, Esq.	H. Hearn, Esq.
J. L. Stratton, Esq.	F. E. Bartlett, Esq.
E. F. Dayrell, Esq.	H. Small, Esq.

THE OATH.

27th February, 1860.

Before The Mayor, The Hon. Percy Barrington, and H. Hearn, Esq.

"*I do solemnly promise and swear true and faithful allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen. So help me God.*"

JAMES THOMAS HARRISON, *Buckingham.*

Though only four members of the original Corps are now alive, it has been kept going as the "No. 3 (Buckingham)

Company" (including Winslow), 1st Bucks V.R.C., from the time of inception till the recent disbandment and re-incorporation under the new "Territorial Force" scheme.

Volunteer privileges: By a reference to the "Army Regulations Memorandum, Geo. III., 1804," it will be seen that the wearing of the uniform is sufficient passport to the wearer to enter all garrisons and fortifications, also barracks in the United Kingdom, without any other sanction whatever.

BUCKINGHAM CHARITIES.

THESE have been fully described by Browne Willis, and in the Directories, &c., so that it is only neccessary here to refer persons anxious to fully investigate them to the House of Commons' Report on Bucks Charities, 1835; to Appendix No. V. in Mr. Roundell's Lecture, 1857; to the newspaper accounts of the "Enquiry" held in the Town Hall in April, 1887; and to the Report of Wm. Goode, Esq., the Charity Commissioner. Various schemes for alteration *re* the Royal Latin School, &c., have since been promulgated, printed copies of which may be obtained from the Charity Commissioners. The following is a short account of the principal Charities, and their original intended benefactions :—

Lady Penelope Osborne's Charity, of about £12 per annum, to provide gowns for 6 poor men.

Sir Simon Bennett's Charity, of about £17 per annum, to provide clothes for 10 men annually.

Higgens' Charity, of about £73 per annum, to relieve 5 poor sole unmarried people.

Lady Bagot's Charity, of about £11 per annum, to provide gowns for 5 poor widows.

Agard and Dayrell's Charity, of about £83 per annum, to relieve 12 of the poorest inhabitants.

Grove's Charity, £2 10s., to be laid out in bread for the poor.

Adkins' Charity, of about £33 per annum, for 4 poor widows in Prebend End.

West's Charity, £17 6s. 4d., for the poor of Gawcott to buy bacon.

Harrison's Charity, £8 5s. per annum, for 3 paralytics.

Box's Charity, £17 6s. per annum, for the salary of the Church Organist.

Newton's Charity, £26 per annum, to clothe and educate 25 boys.

Hart's Charity, £9 per annum,
Sir Richard Temple's Charity, £13 per annum, } for apprenticing poor lads.

Rogers' Charity, £30 per annum, for the relief of decayed tradesmen.

Also Barton's Hospital, Christ's Hospital, and the Royal Latin School, particulars of which are given in the chapters relating thereto.

BUCKINGHAM COACH SERVICE.

THE following copy of a placard in the possession of Messrs. Cheney, of Banbury, is interesting :—

"The Banbury, Buckingham and Winslow machine begins going for the winter season on Saturday, 20th November, 1779.

"Sets out from the 'Red Lion' Inn, in Banbury, every Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday, at noon, to Buckingham; and returns from there every Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday morning. Likewise a coach from the 'Cobham Arms,' Buckingham, every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday morning at five o'clock to London; and return from there every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning to Buckingham, at the same hour. The fare as usual. Inside passengers to be allowed 14lb. for luggage; all above to pay one penny per pound. Performed by John Lomax & Co. Stops at the 'Plough' at Adderbury, 'Red Lion' at Aynho, 'Barley Mow' on Bayard's Green, 'White Hart' at Tingewick, 'Lord Cobham's Arms' at Buckingham, and 'The Three Pigeons' at Winslow, to take up and set down passengers and parcels. Stops going in and coming out of London at the 'Green Man and Still,' the corner of Swallow Street, Oxford Road."

From Arber's "English Garner," vol. I. (1637), it appears :— "The carriers of Buckingham do lodge at the King's Head, in the Old Change (London); they come on Wednesdays and Thursdays."

OX-ROASTING.

THOUGH perhaps differences of opinion exist as to the glory of having an ox roasted whole in the streets, such celebrations have been held in our ancient borough. A full account of the coming of age of the late Marquis of Chandos, which was thus publicly noted, is preserved in copies of the "Illustrated London News" of that date (1844). More recently also, as the result of some friendly chaff at Market one evening, a fine ox and a fat sheep were given by two farmers, to be roasted whole in North End Square, on "Statute Fair" day, the cash received for sale of the meat to be given to the "Nursing Home." A crowd of some 2,000 persons attended, and the Institution benefitted to the extent of £31 7s. 6d. the first year (1906), and being so successful it was repeated the next year, resulting in a cash balance for the "Home" of £26 2s. 11d., but the risk and trouble was so great the experiment then dropped.

THE FLOODS.

PERHAPS no account of Buckingham can be considered complete which does not mention the liability to flooding after very heavy rains and snow storms; and Messrs. Edmunds & Poynter, of Ford Street, are always ready to shew the curious in this matter—the doorpost upon which they keep a record of the height attained upon various occasions, and of which we are permitted to give the following copy :—

Date.		Depth ft.	in.
Oct. 10th, 1875	...	3	7
April 28th, 1908	...	3	3
Oct. 24th, 1882	...	3	2
Nov. 14th, 1875	...	2	8
Nov. 14th, 1894	...	2	1
Feb. 5th, 1897	...	1	5
Nov. 13th, 1894	...		6

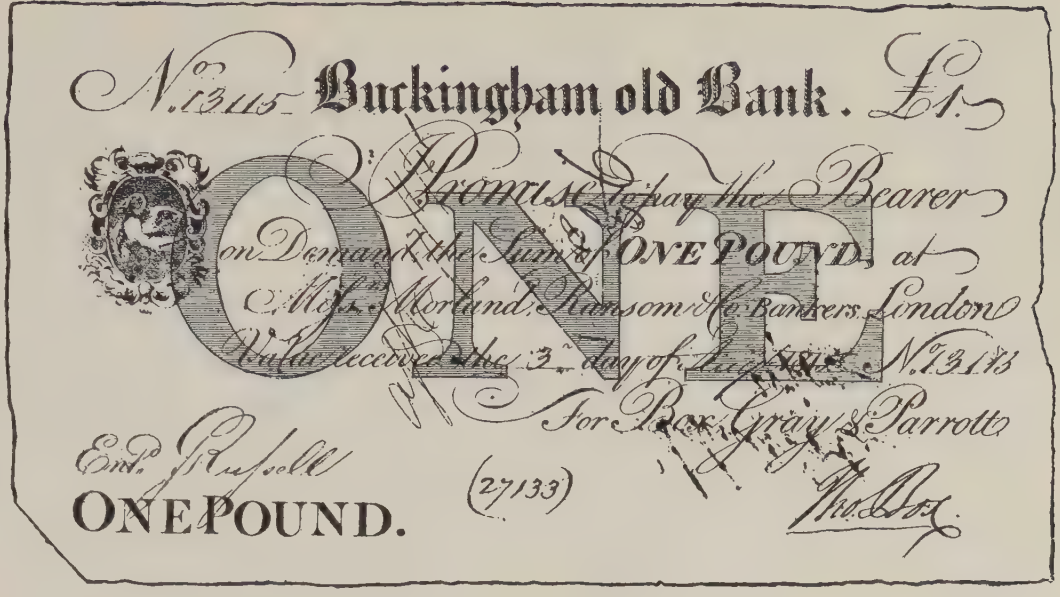
Also going considerably further back in date, the following extract from "The Gentleman's Magazine" for October 1797, may be interesting:—

"At Buckingham during a heavy fall of rain on 24th and 25th inst., the water rose several feet higher than has ever been remembered; the roads were impassable for carriages during the whole day, and a man was drowned through the rapidity of the stream, in attempting to swim across a narrow street called Well Street, in the sight of 40 or 50 people, who were quite unable to assist him."

The Ouse affords good pike fishing; perch, roach, and dace are also to be caught, and in flood-time prime quality eels.

BUCKINGHAM "NOTE" ISSUE.

WHEN the former "Bucks and Oxon Union Bank" was, in 1902, taken over by "Lloyds" (as now), one of the "privileges" which then ceased was the local issue of about £80,000 worth of notes of the face value of £5 and £10 each, under the original style of "Bartlett, Parrott & Co." All such private issues are now being gradually discontinued in favour of the Bank of England as opportunity occurs. It will probably be a surprise to most readers, however, to know that £1 notes were once issued in Buckingham, as will be seen from the accompanying engraving. Irish and Scotch £1 notes are still in circulation.


No. 13115
Buckingham old Bank.
£1.
ONE
I PROMISE to pay the Bearer
on Demand the Sum of ONE POUND at
Mess.rs Morland, Ransom & Co Bankers London
Value received the 3.d day of August 1815 No. 13115
For Bar.d Gray & Parrott
Ent.d Russell
(27133)
ONE POUND.
Tho.s Dez.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE BOROUGH BALANCE SHEET.

SUNDRY items of interest extracted from the Borough Balance Sheet since the year 1839 are here given. The first annual Balance Sheet was issued in 1836.

		£	s.	d.
1839.	Amount of Quit Rents received	3	16	0
	Paid Wilson & Booth preparing tender for the "New Gaol"	5	0	0
	Paid Expenses of Lenborough, Gawcott and Bourton appealing against the Borough Rate	50	0	0
1848.	D. P. King, Esq., and Major Dewes, paid £5 each fine for not serving as Council men.			
1850.	Lighting Inspector's account appears for first time.			
1854.	Paid John Dockray for services rendered in re-building Tingewick Road Bridge	10	10	0
1855.	Paid Repairs to Town Hall	85	17	7
	Quit Rents received	11	10	10
1858.	Paid F. Duke for medical attendance at Gaol ...		10	6
	Paid W. Shipley for trees and planting on Church Hill	4	16	0
1860.	Received for herbage on Church Hill		10	0
1862.	J. G. Hubbard, Esq., M.P., *re* cost of "Kirby's Corner"	100	0	0
1864.	W. Giles for sitters up with W. J. Stevens	10	2	6
1865.	Fines received for chimneys on fire	1	15	0
	T. Holton transferring boundary wall to new line on Church Hill	40	0	0
1869.	Received for brushwood off trees on Church Hill (less lopping expenses)		4	6
1872.	Expense of cleaning out Mill Head	45	15	2
1875.	Expense of Bourton Foot Bridge	19	18	0
	Received of H. Small, Esq., for corner on Church Hill to add to his yard	20	0	0
1877.	Received of Hearn & Co., for Mill Bank	30	0	0
	Paid Thos. Atkins for Mill Bank iron protecting fence	87	10	0
1881.	Paid Hussey & Glenister for Town Hall chairs ...	54	15	8
	Paid George Tompkins for Town Hall tabling ...	17	2	0
1884.	Borough Properties' Sale expenses:—			
	Hearn & Co.	27	0	6
	R. J. Russell	20	17	6
1886.	Thorpe, expense of cleaning out Canal Basin ...	32	16	0
1887—8.	By sale of dead horse		13	0
	J. K. Tibbetts, repairs at Thornborough Bridge (moiety)	90	0	0
	Jubilee Gift to Reading Room for re-building wall	10	0	0
	New water cart	41	7	0
1890—1.	By sale of the Borough Standard Measures, R. J. Russell	17	0	0
	Expenses of providing Gawcott with a public water supply	125	3	6
	E. Bullock, Esq., Recorder, pension on abolition of Quarter Sessions	30	0	0
1892—3.	Bank of England for first Instalment and Interest on £9,000 loan	189	11	8

		£	s.	d.
1893—4.	By sale of old horse	5	0	0
	A. H. Busby for new horse	48	10	0
	Charles Tailby, lopping Church Hill trees ...	3	2	0
	Humphreys & Co., Knightsbridge, for the Isolation Hospital	140	0	0
	Tradesmen's accounts for furnishing same ...	43	13	1
	Cleaning out Canal Head	105	10	7
1894—5.	T. Boyse, *last* bond in extinguishing Town Hall mortgage	50	0	0
	W. H. French, new sanitary cart	22	10	0
1895—6.	Paid H. Small, Esq. (Charity Trustees), purchase of Pumping Station	500	0	0
	Paid H. Small, Esq. (Baroness Kinloss), purchase of Sewage Farm	1178	12	2
1896—7.	J. K. Tibbetts, Diamond Jubilee illuminations ...	10	0	0
	D. Lines, mace bearer's uniform	7	10	0
	A. H. Busby for horse	38	0	0
1897—8.	Received H. Clarke for shooting over Sewage Farm	1	10	0
	Purchase of horse (Highways Account)	58	0	0
	H. Harris, for new foot bridge at Bourton ...	13	1	6
1898—9.	A. C. Rogers, Esq., two thirds cost of laying on water to Bath Lane	8	1	9
	L. & N.-W. Ry. for cost of making "Station Road"	150	0	0
1899—1900.	Hadland, painting Church Hill fence ...	11	0	0
	Geo. Wigley, for sale of horse by auction at Winslow	19	15	0
1900—1.	Purchase of 2 horses	50	0	0
	Charity Trustees for rent of part of the Shambles to *end* of lease, 21/12/00	11	0	0
1901—2.	Exors. late George De'Ath, Esq., share of salary as Medical Officer of Health	5	10	8
1902—3.	Exors. late Ed. Bond, Commission on sale of the Shambles	3	3	0
	T. W. Hurst, purchase of fly for hospital cases	12	0	0
	Purchase of new horse	52	0	0
1903—4.	By sale of old fire engine	6	17	0
	By sale of Shambles (see next item)	252	3	9
	A. J. Cox, for erection of new cart horse stables at Pumping Station	252	3	9
1904—5.	Expenditure during this year in connection with infectious cases at hospital	400	0	0
1905—6.	Rev. W. F. Norris, half-year pension to 16th June (the *last* pension paid)		16	0
	Sale of mangolds off Sewage Farm this season ...	140	0	0
1906—7.	H. Tew, repairing and painting Town Hall windows	45	13	11
1907—8.	Grenville Lodge of Odd Fellows, loan for overhauling Town Hall	400	0	0
	R. Hirons, for roan horse (bad doer!)	25	0	0
	Guardians in re-payment of cost of isolation of a tramp	42	3	11

NOTES FROM MY DIARY.

1853—April 27. A new line of underground telegraph wires (7 wires in triangular wooden trough) laid through the town (and afterwards taken up again).
1861—July 27. The Duke of Buckingham died (in London).
1862—June 28. The Dowager Duchess of Buckingham died.
1864—Aug. 5. A Buckingham man named Stevens hung at Aylesbury for the murder of a young girl named Annie Leeson.
1865—June 23. Sale at the Iron Foundry, Chandos Road.
1869—Aug. 20. Corner stone of the new London & County Bank laid.
1870—Feb. 5. Telegraph Office opened at Buckingham.
Oct. 24. Magnificent Auroraborealis.
Nov. 14. Performance by the Buckingham Amateur Dramatic Society.
Dec. 26. Skating on Canal; safe all the way to Stony Stratford.
1871—Mar. 8. The central White Hart gateway entrance closed, and new one opened at bottom of yard.
Dec. 20. The first School Board Election.
1872—Mar. 26. Billiard tournament in Town Hall to introduce the new White Hart table.
Nov. 1. The first election by ballot for members of the Corporation.
Nov. 1. The ground dug over in Old Cow Fair and trees planted by Egerton Hubbard, Esq.
1874—Feb. 28. Caroline, Duchess of Buckingham and Chandos, died.
July 31. Fire at Mr. Geo. Harrison's new premises in Castle Street.
1875—Feb. 6. Egerton Hubbard, Esq., thrown from his horse, and found on road side near Benthill, stunned, and was carried to White Hart.
June 9. The Station Mill (Beard's) sold to A. C. Rogers, Esq., for £1,020.
Oct. 10. (Sunday). Big flood; 12 ewes drowned in our Woolpack meadow.
1876—Feb. 18. Successful "Spelling Bee" in aid of "Literary and Scientific Society" funds.
June 15. Bicycle Club dinner (54-inch wheels).
July 26. Clown Cricketers v. Buckingham Cricket Club Match; 4,000 people present.
Nov. 9. Geo. Nelson, Esq. (Town Clerk), died.
1877—Nov. 23. Huge meteor burst in the sky, about 8 p.m.
Dec. 13. School Board Election: Cheesman and Small each polled 450 votes for third place, so drew lots, and Cheesman elected.
1878—Nov. 1. Town Council Election: J. T. Harrison's first entry there.
1879—Jan. 7. The Superintendent of the Fire Brigade had a chimney on fire.
Feb. 26. "Weston," the "Backwards" Pedestrian, passed through Buckingham.
April 7. E. Hubbard, Esq., had shrubs planted on the bank behind Railway Station.
Sept. 3. Special meeting of the Town Council to name the streets ready for the approaching Ordnance Survey of the Borough.
Sept. 26. Rev. F. G. Kiddle instituted Vicar, *vice* Mr. Norris resigned.
1880—Mar. 31. Borough Election: Sir Harry Verney, Bt., elected by a majority of 8.
April 5. Town Council Meetings at 6 o'clock given up—to revert to 11 a.m.

1880—June 3. Egerton Hubbard, Esq., married to Miss Portal.
1881—Jan. 19. No train service. No letters delivered. Stopped by snow drift for about 24 hours.
Feb. 10. Official reception of Duke of Buckingham on his return from Madras.
Mar. 2. New Victoria-stone paving over London Road Bridge commenced laying.
Mar. 13. Nicholas, Emperor of Russia, assassinated.
April 19. Earl Beaconsfield (as Benjamin Disraeli, former Member for Bucks) died.
Dec. 13. Town Hall Swan replaced after re-gilding.
1882—Feb. 1. Town Hall new illuminated clock face lighted first time.
Nov. 25. Reception at Station of the "Indian Contingent" *en route* to Stowe.
1883—Jan. 30. Public dinner to celebrate Sir H. Verney's Jubilee in Parliament.
June 1. Well at Mr. Dover's, Moreton Road, colted in, burying three men (two saved).
June 22. H.R.H. The Duke of Cambridge was Yeomanry Reviewing Officer at Stowe.
Aug. 1. Parcel Post inaugurated at Buckingham.
1884—Jan. 2. Meet of the Grafton Hounds in the Market Square for the first time.
Feb. 29. Varney (prisoner) escaped from Borough Gaol.
Mar. 27. Auction Sale of "Market Hall" by Mr. Russell, to A. C. Rogers, Esq., at £640.
July 26. Men fixing new lightning conductor on Church Spire.
Aug. 4. The Corporation attended at Claydon House to receive Chain of Office.
Aug. 25. Ordered new Fire Engine Station to be made at the Old Gaol.
1885—Sept. 12. The new "Bakery" opened on site of former Market Hall. Duke of Buckingham's Wedding, and official reception at Railway Station.
1886—Feb. 19. H. Small, Esq., appointed Coroner in place of late Mr. Robt. De'Ath.
July 14. North Bucks Election: Egerton Hubbard, Esq., elected; majority over Captain Verney, 71.
July 27. The Flower Show Fireworks concluded with a real fire at Bourton Mill.
1887—Mar. 5. New Nursing Home presented to the Borough by the Right Hon. J. G. Hubbard, M.P.
April 27. Charity Commission Public Enquiry in Town Hall from 11 o'clock till 6.30 p.m. Copies of Mr. Goode's Report may be obtained at the offices in London.
June 18. Corporation met County Surveyor at Thornborough Bridge and ordered parapets to be re-built at joint cost. (Carried out by Mr. J. K. Tibbetts.)
Dec. 14. New Post Office opened on what was once "The Cobham Arms Inn," and afterwards Mr. Bradford's shop.
1888—Jan. 23. The "Literary and Scientific" Institute wound up and books transferred to new "Reading Room."
Feb. 6. Mr. R. W. Munday resigned appointment as Borough Surveyor.
Feb. 12. Re-opening of the Church Organ after an outlay of £300 in new stops, etc.
Mar. 10. Silver Wedding of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.

1888—Michs. Epidemic of rick fires (incendiary) in the Borough.
Oct. 15. At a Special Council Meeting, settled to adopt Sewage and Water schemes.
Dec. 14. T. R. Hearn, Esq., appointed Town Clerk, *vice* H. Hearn, Esq., resigned.
1889—Feb. 19. Public Enquiry held by Col. Ducat *re* Drainage and Water Supply Loan.
Mar. 26. Duke of Buckingham and Chandos died at Stowe.
April 1. Borough Police Force hereafter to be controlled by the County Authority.
June 22. Bill passed for constructing a Railway from Buckingham to Towcester (never carried out!)
Aug. 3. Special Council Meeting, and contract signed with Mr. Latham, as engineer of the new Water Works and Sewerage.
Aug. 28. The first Lord Addington died.
Oct. 11. North Bucks Election: Capt. Verney returned by 208 majority over Evelyn Hubbard, Esq.
1890—Jan. 9. The Town Clerk's salary raised from £60 to £75 per annum.
April 14. Fortunately, the Council decided to let, instead of demolish, the Old Gaol.
May 11. Bishop of Reading to dedicate the new East Window in the Church.
Nov. 22. The Recorder's (E. Bullock) salary cut down from £50 to £30, retiring pension, on the Quarter Sessions being abolished.
Dec. 9. Exhibition in Town Hall of Lace, Antiques, Curios, etc.
1891—Jan. 10. Coal distribution amongst the poor in consequence of severe weather.
April 5. Census Day.
May 28. Election Day, North Bucks: Leon, 5013; Hubbard, 4632.
June 1. Drainage Loan, £11,000 allowed by Local Government Board.
Dec. 18. Iron Wall Letter Box fixed in Mr. John Phillips' wall, Chandos Road.
1892—Jan. 14. Duke of Clarence (heir presumptive to the Throne) died.
Jan. 21. As Treasurer, distributed over £800 amongst members of the Buckingham Friendly Society.
Oct. 25. Princess of Wales drove through "incognito" to Stowe House to luncheon.
Dec. 5. Sealed contract for £9,600 Loan on Waterworks Account.
1893—Mar. 31. Destructive fire at Chackmore. Many families rendered homeless.
May 15. J. T. Harrison elected Alderman in place of Mr. Thomas Ridgway, deceased.
July 6. George, Prince of Wales, married.
Aug. 15. Turning on the new Borough Water Supply at Moreton Reservoir.
1894—Feb. 5. W. J. Gough elected Alderman in place of Mr. Geo. Bennett, deceased.
Feb. 12. Sir H. Verney, Bart, died at Claydon House.
Feb. 21. Royal Oak Inn at Gawcott burned down.
June 12. Bernadine Roman Catholic College Foundation Stone laid.
1895—Jan. 29. Arbitration with Mr. Baldwin Latham *re* Water Schemes settled.
April 22. Canal Co. *v.* The Corporation; action *re* public drainage entering the Canal.

1895—June 10. Agreed to buy a Pumping Station and Sewage Farm.
July 19. North Bucks Election : W. W. Carlile, Esq., elected by 436 majority.
1896—Mar. 2. Signed Contract with Siddons & Co. for the new Sewerage Works.
July New Main Drain laid across (underneath) Woolpack Ford.
Aug. 10. C. Parsons elected Town Crier and Mace Bearer, *vice* Charles Poynter, deceased.
1897—Jan. 13. Grafton Hounds met in Market Square.
Feb. 16. Arbitration case *re* cracking of sewage tank walls.
Mar. 29. Messrs. G. Tombs & Sons commenced pulling down "Christ's Hospital."
Mar. 30. Mr. A. A. Walford, gave a Lecture on "Historic Buckingham."
June 22. Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Public dinner in Town Hall ; about 400 sat down, and sports in the evening.
July 12. Mr. Nicholls (engineer) came and started the Sewage Works going.
1898—May 5. Public Enquiry *re* further loan.
May 19. The Mayor and Corporation presented address to H.R.H. The Prince of Wales (Albert Edward), who had come down to review the Yeomanry.
May 25. Death of W. H. French, Esq., J.P., one of the oldest natives of the Borough.
Sept. 10. Empress of Austria assassinated. (She hunted at one time with the Grafton Hounds.)
1899—Jan. 2. Agreement signed and sealed *re* taking over the "Station Road."
Jan. 17. Wool Fair day ; average price 17s. 3d. per tod only !
Nov. 22. Survey proceeding *re* projected Railway, Verney Junction to Towcester.
1900—Jan. 19. Send-off dinner to Troops going to South Africa.
Mar. 1. News of relief of Ladysmith, South Africa. Church bells rung.
May 4. Produced map of the Wool Hall and surroundings (1814), to settle Shambles' boundary.
May 18. News of relief of Mafeking, South Africa
July 26. About 100 Buckingham "Mothers" went to Brightwell Vicarage to call on Rev. F. G. and Miss Kiddle.
1901—Jan. 22. Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen died at Osborne, at 6.30 p.m.
Feb. 1. Market held on Friday ; all business suspended on Saturday for the Queen's funeral.
Feb. 14. Grand reception by the Mayor (C. A. Bennett, Esq.) ; the King's health duly toasted, this day being the Opening of his first Parliament.
Mar. 31. Census Day.
May 3. The Town Clerk served with a Writ by Isler & Co., *re* Maids Moreton boring scheme.
July 6. George H. De'Ath, Esq., Medical Officer of Health, died.
July 25. Complimentary reception and presentation of sword to Lord Chesham on his return from South Africa.
1902—Jan. 31. Meeting at White Hart *re* proposed absorption of Bucks & Oxon Bank into "Lloyds."
June 1. Peace proclaimed in South Africa ; Boers surrendered on our terms.

1902—July	15.	Coming of age rejoicings at Claydon House; Harry Verney, Esq., attained his majority.
Aug.	1.	Tombs & Sons commenced laying new concreted floor at Latin School (Chantry Chapel).
Aug.	9.	King Edward's Coronation day being on a Saturday, the market was held on Friday the 8th instead.
1903—Mar.	18.	Tombs & Sons started putting in an entirely new system of drainage at Barton's Hospital.
Nov.	9.	A. C. Rogers, Esq., re-elected Mayor. (Third year.)
Dec.	24.	(Thursday). Arranged for this to be "Market Day" instead of Saturday (Bank Holiday).
1904—Jan.	19.	Fire at Miss Ada Bartlett's, West Street.
Jan.	25.	Special Meeting to overhaul the contents of the Borough Chest.
Oct.	12.	Measured out exactly 2 acres from field on Chandos Road as site for new Latin School.
1905—June	15.	Guardians challenged the Town Council to a game at cricket. The Town Council won.
July	4.	Drove to Aylesbury to County Archæological Exhibition with a number of items from around here.
Nov.	9.	T. Hawes, Esq., re-elected Mayor; entertained the Corporation to a recherché luncheon.
Dec.	9.	Fat Cattle Show; the earliest date upon which ours can come, Saturday before London Christmas Market.
1906—Jan.	26.	Septennial distribution of the funds of Buckingham Friendly Society at The Woolpack Inn.
Jan.	30.	The trees round Church Hill trimmed up under direction of the Borough Surveyor.
1907—Jan.	25.	Plenty of good skating about, but on 27th sudden thaw, and burst pipes everywhere.
Feb.	23.	Presentation of bicycle, rose-bowl, etc., to Mr. R. E. Bennett, Hon. Secretary of Agricultural Show.
July	11.	Dedication of memorial window in chancel to memory of Rev. W. Foxley Norris, Vicar.
Sept.	27.	Public meeting *re* extra Water Works loan.
Oct.	12.	Public ox-roasting in North End Square.
1908—Jan.	13.	Dr. Larking read a paper on "Buckingham as it was, is, and should be"!
Feb.	1.	Assassination of the King of Portugal and his son.
Feb.	17.	At a special meeting the Town Council resolved to offer £1,000 for the Wharf.—Declined.
April	26.	Deep snowstorm, and on 28th a flood within four inches of the 1875 high water mark.
Sept.	30.	The Corporation attended at Stowe House and presented address to Master of Kinloss on his coming of age.
Oct.	9.	Formation of new Fire Brigade.
Nov.	1.	At Council Election, Messrs. G. Tailby and W. Powell tied for fourth place, so drew lots: Mr. Tailby won.
1909—Jan.	25.	Dedication of window in sanctuary to the memory of the late Rev. F. G. Kiddle, Vicar.
May	4.	Empire Day—Procession of children in Market Square.
Aug.	10.	Marriage of Lord Addington's daughter. The town subscribed and sent her a diamond pendant.
Aug.	18.	96 wires in an underground cable in lead tubing laid through the town this week.
Nov.	14.	Mayor's annual Church Parade—in a snowstorm.

AVENUES NEAR THE TOWN.

AS stated in the short description given in Mr. Walford's issue of views of Buckingham and Stowe, "No visit to picturesque Buckingham would be complete without a saunter through STOWE AVENUE, with its 1½ miles of stately elm and beech trees bordering the wide greensward, on the lordly drive to Stowe House. The side walk, with boughs of lofty elms on either side interlacing each other overhead, making it cool and shady on the hottest days, runs the length of the Avenue up to the 'Corinthian Arch,' where the public drive ends."

MAIDS MORETON AVENUE, too, at the north-east end of the town (road to Stony Stratford) is well worth a visit. Although originally constructed about a century ago as a private approach only to a residence at the Maids Moreton terminus it has always been courteously opened to the public, except on periodic occasions when closed to maintain the right, and during which times cards of permission to pass and repass this walk can generally be obtained from the Stewards (Messrs. Bennett & Sons, agents for Miss Turner Andrewes.)

There are many pleasant drives around Buckingham; the main London Road being in several parts a beautiful avenue, and the public road leading from same across Addington Park and on through the Claydons is very charming. The road through Tingewick to Banbury, or to Bicester, is excellent for motoring, while the "hill and dale" road through Whittlebury to Towcester, and on to Northampton, is very exhilerating.

It may be mentioned that the glorious "Stowe House," near here, the home of the Dukes of Buckingham, has twice been occupied for a time by French Royal refugees; first about a century ago, and recently by the Comte de Paris, who died there on 8th September, 1894. *(See full description of Stowe in the "Illustrated London News," 15th September, 1894.)*

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

THE CORPORATION formerly elected *two Members of Parliament*, but this was one of its ancient "privileges" lost when, in 1867, "the Representation Act," 30 and 31 Victoria, reduced the Borough to *one* M.P.; whilst under the "Redistribution Act" of 1885, 48 and 49 Victoria, the Parliamentary boundary was enlarged to the whole of North Bucks. The following is a list of the elections during the last half-century:—

1859. April 30th—Sir H. Verney, Bt., and J. G. Hubbard, Esq., re-elected.

1865. July 12th—Sir H. Verney, Bt., and J. G. Hubbard, Esq., re-elected.

1868. November 17th—Sir H. Verney, Bt., 463; J. G. Hubbard, Esq., 338; majority, 125; L.

1874. February 4th—Egerton Hubbard, Esq., 589; Sir H. Verney, Bt., 391; majority, 198; C.

1880. March 31st—Sir H. Verney, Bt., 528; E. Hubbard, Esq., 520; majority, 8; L.

1885. December 14th—Captain E. H. Verney, 5462; Sir S. Wilson, 4006; majority, 1456; L.

1886. July 14th—E. Hubbard, Esq., 4460; Capt. E. H. Verney, 4389; majority, 71; C.

Then came a bye-election on Mr. Hubbard becoming Lord Addington.

1889. October 11th—Capt. E. H. Verney, 4855; Hon. Evelyn Hubbard, 4647; majority, 208; L.

Then follows a bye-election on Capt. Verney's retirement.

1891. May 28th—H. S. Leon, Esq., 5013; Hon. Evelyn Hubbard, 4632; majority, 381; L.

1892. July 12th—H. S. Leon, Esq., 5153; W. W. Carlile, Esq., 4704; majority, 449; L.

1895. July 19th—W. W. Carlile, Esq., 5266; H. S. Leon, Esq., 4830; majority, 436; C.

1900. October 9th—W. W. Carlile, Esq., 5101; W. Beaumont, Esq., 4684; majority, 417; C.

1906. January 19th—F. W. Verney, Esq., 6253; Hon. T. F. Fremantle, 4673; majority, 1580; L.

1851

Borough of Buckingham } to wit

The List of Freemen of the Borough of Buckingham being a Place entitled to vote in the election of Members for the said Borough

Sched B — Registration No. 5

Christian Name and Surname of each Freeman at full length.	Place of Abode
Bennett, Christopher Dalton	Buckingham
Harrison, James the elder	Buckingham
King, George	Buckingham

pro Mem

Town Clerk.

John Wodhedge

Acting Barister

Sept 23. 1851

The above Freemen all died about 50 years ago, and none have since been appointed.

GAOL ESCAPES.

THE OLD GAOL, although strongly built in stone, has proved on more than one occasion an easy place for prisoners to escape from. One clever misdemeanant, well known as "Scroggs" Wesley, having made himself a noose rope of blanket-shreds, which, by being thrown over one of the castellated parapets, enabled him to pull himself up on the inside and slide down on the outside and escape. Another prisoner (the "Coiner" Varney), simply watched for an opportunity, and walked straight out; and so also did another delinquent, who having got "clear away," as it is said, the police ineffectually scoured the country for 20 miles round, but he simply hid himself in the Cemetery plantation, and then late at night went home, and, after hiding for several days, one morning walked into the Market Square, and, there being no police about, gave himself up to the late W. H. French, Esq., J.P., and asked him to take him back to gaol—which he did!

[*From the "Buckingham Advertiser," May, 1856.*]

CELEBRATION OF PEACE.

29TH MAY, 1856.

(AFTER THE RUSSIAN WAR IN THE CRIMEA.)

IN common with most towns in the Kingdom, Buckingham is preparing for a joyous celebration of the return of peace. On Wednesday last a meeting of the inhabitants, convened by the Mayor, was held in the Council Chamber to take into consideration the most suitable means of doing this. £50 was subscribed in the room, and the following resolutions adopted:—

> "That it is desirable to celebrate the re-establishment of peace by a public demonstration in the town on Thursday, 29th inst."

"That, to enable the poorer classes to participate in the rejoicing, it is desirable to provide them with dinner at their own homes."

"That a Committee be appointed to carry out the foregoing resolutions and to collect subscriptions for the purpose."

"That it is desirable for all shops to be closed at twelve o'clock on the day of the celebration;" and

"That a public dinner be held in the Town Hall."

The details of the "sports" which took place; contracts for the meat, bread and groceries supplied; names of committee of management, &c., are all in the writer's possession, but are hardly interesting enough to merit reproduction.

SOME OTHER PUBLIC CELEBRATIONS.

1840—February 10th.—Marriage of Queen Victoria.—Entertainment of the people. (£88 2s. 0d. subscribed.)

1845—January 15th.—Queen's visit to Stowe.—Grand procession of Yeomanry, with the gentry, clergy, Corporation, etc.; dinner and general festivities. (£300 subscribed.)

1856—May 29th.—Celebration of Peace after the Crimean War.—Entertainment of the populace. Band, dinner, dancing, etc., fireworks and bonfire on Chandos Road. James Harrison, jun., Esq., Mayor.

1863—March 10th.—Marriage of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.—Old English sports and pastimes to celebrate the occasion of the marriage of H.R.H. Prince Albert Edward with Princess Alexandra.

1883—May 14th.—Whit Monday Holiday.—Public Old English sports in the Market Place.—Prizes, band, Morris dances, etc., provided by the Mayor, J. T. Harrison, Esq.

1887—June 21st.—Queen's Jubilee.—Sports, etc., races for men, women and children, and for ponies and donkeys in the old Cricket Field, fireworks, etc.

1897—June 22nd.—Queen's Diamond Jubilee.—Public dinner in the Town Hall, when about 400 sat down.

1901—July 25th.—Public Reception of Lord Chesham.—Presentation of sword to Lord Chesham on his return from the South African War. Yeomanry parade and "County" gathering in a field on Stowe Road. C. A. Bennett, Esq., Mayor.

1902—June 26th, and then postponed through illness of His Majesty to August 9th.—Coronation Festivities; King Edward VII. enthroned. Procession, service at Church, tree planting, bands playing, teas for children, bonfire. A. C. Rogers, Esq., Mayor.

1908—May 25th.—First "Empire Day" celebrated.—Assembly of School children in Market Square; escort of Royal Bucks Hussars, etc. F. Adcock, Esq., Mayor.

A FEW OF THE MORE NOTABLE EVENTS OF THE PAST HALF CENTURY.

OPENING of a Cemetery for Buckingham—1856.

Peace rejoicings at end of the Russian War—1856.

Death of Prince Albert—14th December, 1861.

Creation of a School Board for Buckingham in 1871, and its extinction in 1905.

Presentation to His Grace The Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, on his return to Stowe, after 5 years' absence as Governor of Madras—1881.

Public dinner, to celebrate Sir H. Verney's Jubilee in Parliament—1883.

Presentation to the Borough of the "Nursing Home," by the Right Hon. J. G. Hubbard, M.P.—1886.

Her Majesty Queen Victoria's Jubilee—1887.

His Royal Highness Albert Edward Prince of Wales' Silver Wedding—1888.

Establishment of Water Works and Sewage Works in the Borough—1888-1893.

Establishment of Electric Light Works in the Borough—1889.

Death of His Grace The Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, at Stowe—1889.

Exhibition in Town Hall of Antiques, Curios, Carvings, Lace, &c.—1890.

Establishment of Stratford Road, Bourton Road, and Tingewick Road Allotments—1890.

The death of H.R.H. The Comte de Paris, at Stowe House, (after about 5 years' residence there)—8th September, 1894.

Her Majesty Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee—1897.

Her Majesty Queen Victoria's death; and Accession of King Edward VII.—1901.

Coronation of King Edward VII.—August 9, 1902.

Presentation to Lord Chesham, Col. of the Imperial Yeomanry, on his return from the South African War—1901.

Thinning out of every alternate lime tree on the Church Hill—1904.

THE CHARTERS.

BUCKINGHAM is lucky enough to possess two Charters of Incorporation (as already mentioned in an earlier chapter)—one granted by Queen Mary (1553), and a later one by Charles II. (1658). Both of them are engrossed on vellum, in Latin; Browne Willis gives a translation of the 1553 one, and, to save ordinary readers plodding through its lengthy paragraphs, a few items shewing the alterations since that time are here given:—

Then created (1553) a "Body Corporate," comprising Steward, Bailiff, and 12 Burgesses, to have a continual succession "for ever."	Now a Lord High Steward, Mayor, 4 Aldermen, and 12 Councillors.
Qualification to own property of the clear yearly value of 13s. 4d.; or goods and chattels worth £20.	Now to rate at £15 per annum or own property worth £500.
Elected annually on May-day.	Now 9th November in each year.
To hold a Court every three weeks, for actions not exceeding £5.	Superseded by the "County Court."
A local Court of Chancery for Privileges, etc., not exceeding 20 marks per annum.	
Shall have and hold to them for ever, one Market every Tuesday, and two fair days; unless such market and fairs be to the hurt of the neighbours.	Altered to Saturday in Charles II.'s Charter.
	Fairs have now lapsed into markets.
To appoint a Gaol in some convenient place.	New Lock-up on Moreton Road in place of old Gaol.
To hold two Courts Leet per annum, and to pay to the State £1 per annum out of same.	Gone out of date.
An Assize for Weights and Measures.	Still retained, but is now held under "County" management.
The said Bailiff and Burgesses to nominate *two* suitable candidates as Bailiff for the following year, and "*other* inhabitants" upon the 1st of May to select the one to serve.	The forthcoming Mayor now *chosen* by the Corporation on 9th November; an informal prior selection is now, however, generally made.
The "Burgesses" appointed "for life."	Councilmen now for three years only.
The "Steward" to be an "honest man."	Presumably the same!
There shall be two Burgesses of "our Parliament."	Now merged into "North Bucks" Parliamentary district.
The "Bailiff" to be "our Justice."	The Mayor still "Chief Magistrate."
The "Bailiff" to be also the Coroner.	One now specially appointed for life.

BUCKINGHAM SAVINGS' BANK.

THIS title from the Pass Book gives the history of the Buckingham Savings' Bank.

CERTIFIED UNDER ACT, 1863.

RULES, ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS,
FOR THE
MANAGEMENT
OF A
SAVINGS' BANK,
ESTABLISHED AT
BUCKINGHAM,
MARCH 9TH, 1818.

The object of which is

TO RECEIVE DEPOSITES OF SUCH SUMS AS TRADESMEN, MECHANICS, LABOURERS, SERVANTS, AND OTHERS, MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE;

To invest the Money so deposited, in Government Securities; and

TO APPROPRIATE THE SAME FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RESPECTIVE DEPOSITORS.

Under the Patronage and Management of the following Noblemen and Gentlemen.

PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS, TRUSTEES, AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE BUCKINGHAM SAVINGS' BANK,

At the Establishment of the Bank in 1818:—

PRESIDENT:

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS, K.G.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Rt. Hon. Thomas Grenville.
Rt. Hon. Lord Nugent.
Rt. Hon. Sir T. F. Fremantle, Bart, M.P.
Sir Thomas Digby Aubery, Bart.
Sir T. Cotton Sheppard, Bart.
Sir Harry Verney, Bart.
John Poulett, Esq.
Rev. Henry Crowe.
Rev. J. Coker.
The Mayor of Buckingham for the time being.

This Savings' Bank is still opened every Monday from 11 till 1 o'clock.

Secretary, MR. W. S. PRINGLE.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

President :

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF ROSEBERY, K.G.

Vice Presidents :

The Rt. Hon. Lord Cottesloe, D.L.
The Rt. Hon. Lord Boston, D.L.
The Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of Oxford.
The Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of Reading.
The Rt. Hon. Lord Burnham, K.C.V.O.
Leopold de Rothschild, Esq.
Colonel L. E. Goodall, D.L.
The Ven.' The Archdeacon of Buckingham.
Coningsby Disraeli, Esq.
Arthur Lasenby Liberty, Esq., D.L.
Alfred Heneage Cocks, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.
Hon. W. F. D. Smith, M.P.
Jas. Elliman, Esq.
Lady Smyth.

Committee :

Mr. A. Lasenby Liberty, *Chairman, October, 1908.*
Mr. T. Horwood.
Mr. G. Weller.
Rev. C. O. Phipps, M.A.
Rev. E. D. Shaw, M.A.
Mr. J. T. Harrison.
Mr. E. Swinfen Harris, F.R.I.B.A.
Dr. J. C. Baker, M.B., M.B.O.U.
Mr. E. L. Reynolds.
Mr. E. Wilkins.
Mr. F. G. Gurney.
Mr. F. Skull.
Mr. W. A. Forsyth, F.R.I.B.A.

Honorary Curator of the Museum and General Scientific Adviser :
Mr. A. H. Cocks, M.A., F.S.A., M.B.O.U.

Hon. General Secretary : Mr. W. Bradbrook.

Hon. Editorial Secretary : Mr. W. Niven, F.S.A.

Hon. Treasurer : Mr. C. G. Watkins.

Assistant Hon. Curator of the Museum : Dr. J. C. Baker, M.B., M.B.O.U.

Hon. Auditors : Mr. T. Horwood, and Mr. W. Crouch.

Resident Curator of the Museum : Mr. E. Hollis, F.Z.S.

Anyone desirous of becoming a member of this useful Society, which now numbers about 300 members, and holds an extensive Museum at Aylesbury, can have free copies of the Rules, etc., on application to Mr. J. T. Harrison, local Secretary.

SOCIETIES.

AS already explained, this little brochure is intended to enhance the value of the annual almanacks published at our newspaper offices—not to supersede them—and it has been said in praise of Buckingham, that there is "always something going on"—a most effective conceit. In corroboration

of this the reader should refer to these annuals for a list of the large number of agricultural, philosophical, theological, horticultural, eleemosynary, and other societies and institutions existing in the town and district. The writer remembers attending one of the most pleasant functions possible in response to the following invitation :—

BUCKINGHAM MUTUAL LOAN SOCIETY.

"King's Head" Inn,
Buckingham,
March 1st, 1880

SIR,

The Committee of the above Society would feel pleased with the honour of your company at the anniversary dinner, to be held at the "King's Head" Inn, Buckingham, on Thursday, the 18th March inst., at 6.45 p.m., under the presidency of Mr. Alderman Ridgway.

I herewith enclose a ticket, and should be very much obliged if you would favour me with an answer by Thursday, the 11th inst., if it will be convenient for you to attend.

I may mention that the Society, which has only been in existence about twelve months, now numbers nearly 150 members.

I am, Sir,
Yours obediently,
THOMAS BONNER, *Secretary.*

Everybody was delighted with everybody, and each of the 150 members became security for everybody else concerned; but—the society does not now exist!

A FEW INTERESTING EXHIBITS AT VARIOUS TIMES BY INHABITANTS OF THE BOROUGH.

Geo. Bennett, Esq. :—Blunderbuss with spring spear; flint lock spring gun.

G. W. French, Esq. :—Elizabethan coin; Standard measures formerly belonging to the Corporation, viz., gallon measure marked "Henricus Septimus," a quart and a pint of Elizabeth's time, and a 4lb. brass weight, 1588.

Messrs. J. T. and G. H. Harrison :—Speed's Map of Bucks (1610), with map of the town in one corner (see photo copy of same herein); anklet or manacle brought up in the mud from Two Swan's Well (now London County and Westminister Bank premises); Breeches Bible; several foolscap black letter Bibles, heavily bound with leather, iron, and copper; Latin Bible (1564); catalogue (illustrated) results of Stowe Sale (1848); description of Stowe (1742), and another with plan of the Gardens, etc. (1759); pudding stone quern, found at

Thornborough; coloured copy of the Borough Arms on parchment (1574), (see photo copy herein); swing sign of "Shakespeare's" Inn at Grendon Underwood; ancient silver coins and tokens, punch ladles and salt cellars; mosaic floor from Roman bath at Foscott, etc.

Alfred Stowe, Esq.:—Bronze celt; Pewter inlaid and enamelled dish of Charles I. (very rare).

Miss M. E. Burrowes:—Specimens of Buckinghamshire pillow lace (see illustration herein); an English spinning wheel (believed to be 300 years old); 12 bobbins (150 years old); fine old horn parchment patterns.

C. A. Bennett, Esq.:—Hour-glass.

Mr. Wm. Hill:—Bible with Genealogical Chart (1619); copy of the "Times" newspaper, 1798.

Mr. G. E. Reynolds:—Set of Queen Victoria Jubilee coins, 1887.

Miss E. Sear:—Ancient Bible (1592); handsome specimens of needlework.

Mr. J. W. Thorpe:—Ancient Bible; flint and steel fire producer.

Mr. Tibbetts:—Bridle bit, temp Charles I. (found in a Buckingham garden).

Sir E. H. Verney, Bt., possesses a view of Buckingham (about 1740), shewing the Church *Tower* as raised by Browne Willis's exertions, *after* the fall of the Spire.

The late Robert Williatt Jones, Esq., of Winslow, exhibited there a few years ago the lady's dress apron worn by Mrs. Newman Williatt, "Mayoress of Buckingham in 1775." (See photo copy herein of Certificate of this same Mr. Williatt having duly taken the Sacrament during his year of office.)

Most of the above were on view at the Jubilee Exhibition of the Bucks Archæological Society at Aylesbury, in July 1905, at which 2,000 items were collected on loan from all over the County.

THE ENCHANTED PUMP.

(Relating to a Predecessor of Mr. F. Swift, Barber, in the Old "Bull Ring.")

Two friends, who absent long from home,
Had different journeys been,
At length returned, together sat,
Recounting what they'd seen.

Says one, at Buckingham I heard,
A story droll and true;
For he of whom this story tells
Laughs at, and owns it too.

About the centre of that town,
Close by the Market Hill, *
There lived a man when I was there,
And so perhaps does still.

John Warr, the glover, he was called,
And well deserved that name;
For through the country ten miles round
His gloves proclaimed his fame.

And breeches, too, his skilful hands
Of doe or buckskin made;
Which every country beau must own
Gained credit to his trade.

Though small his house, and few the rooms,
Enough he thought those few;
His parlour, void of pomp and state,
Was shop and kitchen too.

Himself, his daughter, and his son,
And eke the cat and dog,
Made up his household—but at times,
His cellar held a hog!

No yard belonging to his house,
Nor place a pump to set,
Made John, when water was required,
At inconvenience fret.

But from his house full twenty yards,
Beneath the Wool Hall† stood,
A pump‡ which he and others might
Make use of when they would.

With bucket in his hand he came
Unto this pump one night,
To fetch some water, though 'twas dark
And he without a light.

But at a neighbouring shop‖ a lamp
Did out of doors remain,
Whose glimmering light sufficient was
To guide him back again.

Some wags to pass away their time,
And laugh at others fears,
Three heads upon the pump had fixed
(Not quite so soft as their's).

To act the intended farce with glee
So well they fixed three threads,
That when they pleased the handle
Moved, or either of the heads.

John hung his bucket to the pump,
And up the handle flew;
Quoth he: "If you can move yourself,
Adzooks! I'll move from you!"

And so he did, but as he stretched
His hand towards the spout;
Determined though for water come,
To go away without—

He saw a nodding head thereon;
And staring wildly round,
Suspense and fear, and strange surprise,
Fast fixed him to the ground.

Top, spout and handle seemed alive,
For each sustained a head,
Which, nodding, willingly obeyed,
The guidance of the thread.

Not long had he with wide stretched eyes
Beheld this ghastly sight,
Before these heads their motion stayed,
And all was still as night.

At this his courage rose so high,
That, scorning borrowed aid,
Once more to set his bucket free
Full boldly he essayed.

Just then such force the wags applied,
And played their part so well,
That soon the head from off the spout
Into his bucket fell!

Down went the bucket, and away
He ran with all his might,
Determined never more to go
For water in the night!

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* Now Mr. Swift's place.
† The Wool Hall, pulled down in 1814, and Shambles built there.
‡ At back of "The Bakery."
‖ Since pulled down and altered.

THE VICTORIAN ERA.

ALTHOUGH the writer's object in issuing this book is to treat of Buckingham mainly, it may not be inconsistent to refer to the enormous strides of civilization generally which the past half-century has witnessed. Take, for instance, the development of the coal and iron deposits of this island, which have been utilised for making railways—the very establishment of the railways facilitating the carriage of minerals. The whole country is now intersected with about 25,000 miles of railways, for the making of which a thousand millions of capital was employed; and, in connection with travelling, comes the improvement also of coach roads, the former turnpike and other main roads, first by the breaking of round stones down into cubes, and then spreading same over the surface for the wheels of the carts and carriages to squeeze them into one smooth surface (as invented by Macadam—and so now called "Macadamised.") Then the more recent improvement effected by the introduction of the steam roller, and so enabling the invention of rubber tyres instead of steel, and the perfecting of cycles and motor cars.

Another advance of the half-century is the introduction to commercial uses of the previously only scientifically known power of electricity—the harnessing, so to say, of "lightning." The Metropolitan Railway service, the Tubes, passenger lifts in same, and in hotels, &c.; electrically driven machinery used in the heavy mixing and grinding plant of cement makers, or in lighter running sewing machines, illustrate the power producing side of the matter, while the electric telegraph and telephone and the electric light are other branches of this science, developed within recent years.

Also the navigation of the air, though still in its infancy, has had an enormous advance in the invention and manufacture of "heavier-than-air" machines, like the one in which Bleriot recently crossed the British Channel. Very little until recent

years had happened in this science since the building of the Montgolfier hot-air balloon of about 100 years ago.

Then again, so far as artificial light is concerned; in his early days the writer occasionally met with a "rush-light," that is, dried rushes from the river bed steeped in fat; these being superseded by "dips," thread soaked in fat and increased in size each dipping; then "moulds," the molten sperm and other oils being cast into metal moulds; and now the brilliant paraffin lamps of the country house; or the incandescent burner of the town establishment; or the Edison electric lamp.

A very singular transformation in the material used for domestic buildings during the period under review is the leap from withies to wire, and mud to cement—the application in principle being practically synonymous. In several of the outlying villages round Buckingham may still be seen old-fashioned cottages, the walls of which are formed of "wattle and dab"; while the new General Telephone Office in London is built with "reinforced cement" (a wire frame cased over with solid cement concrete).

Another local transformation is the alteration in the district of the style of "Dairy Farming." Fifty years ago it was quite possible for the farmer's wife to have fifty dairymaids to choose from at the annual Michaelmas Hiring Fair, whereas now you do not see one. Butter making has almost ceased, the milk being cooled after each ingathering, and despatched by the next train to London, ensuring thus a vastly improved service to the consumer, and a much easier manipulation for the farmer than the old way of setting the milk, then skimming it, then storing in cream cisterns, and then laboriously churning into butter.

Buckingham still holds an excellent trade for gravel, for which there is a great demand, but the two brickyards which formerly existed have been closed, levelled, and turned into "allotments" some years ago—the introduction of steam machinery into brick-making having enabled bricks to be pro-

duced at about half the price which ruled when they were turned out by hand labour: a result not by any means confined to this particular industry.

In addition to the expansion of railways, the introduction of steam power into battleships and commercial vessels has enabled voyages to be made in one-fifth of the time of sailing vessels, and the mercantile tonnage owned by this country has increased seven hundred per cent., contributing largely to the increased output of coal from our mines, which is now twenty-five times greater than half-a-century ago.

Steamships have also greatly developed the trade with our Colonies: the annual turnover with either Australia, New Zealand, Canada, or South Africa, being now more than all of them combined at the beginning of the reign of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria. The building of the "Great Eastern" steamship by Brunel, though a failure for passenger service, enabled the laying of the first Atlantic cable to be carried out; another triumph of the Victorian Era.

This enormous rise in the "building of ships of which there is no end" (as someone wrote) also developed the practical invention of a "life boat" and the starting of that noble society the "National Life Boat Institution," with its fleet of boats and rocket apparatus, etc., apportioned at every dangerous point all round our coasts.

The population of this island has increased from under 30 to over 40 millions, and the spread of education amongst all classes has largely been assisted by the issue, at first of 3d., then 1d., and now ½d. daily newspapers.

The advances of medical science, too, have been very great —the use of anæsthenics, Röntgen rays, radium, etc., and the institution by Miss Florence Nightingale of professional nurses to assist doctors to alleviate pain during surgical operations, etc., are all matters for which the present generation cannot be too grateful. Even in Buckingham we have now for some few years past had the advantage of an "Isolation Hospital" for the treatment and cure of infectious cases (with reduced danger of their spreading) arising in the Borough.

BUCKINGHAM IN 1909.

THESE RECORDS would be inadequate without some appreciation of Buckingham of the present day. In a manner peculiar to itself, the town has absorbed all the benefits of modern civilization without the loss of its own individuality. Improved means of transport by road and rail have brought it into closer touch with the outside world, without destroying its old-world charm.

The present is coloured by a rich historic background; Danes, Saxons, Romans and Normans have all left their impress on the town, though it is perhaps most intimately associated with the ill-starred Stuarts. Not only the ancient Borough itself, but the surrounding neighbourhood is full of interest to the antiquarian, and has not a few churches of acknowledged beauty. The roads are excellent for motor and other traffic, with easy gradients on every approach to the town, amidst sylvan and river scenery of charming description.

As of yore, Buckingham holds a high place as a centre for sport; football and cricket have superseded the countryside games of old; while four packs of Fox Hounds, Rothschild's Stag Hounds, the Otter Hounds, etc., have replaced the hooded falcons of heraldry, but shewing that the same innate love of sport is still among us—a vital heritage of the past.

To the Right
Worshippfull the Corporation
of BUCKINGHAM
This NORTH PROSPECT of
the Church of St Peter & St Paul
in the Town of BUCKS as it stood
before the fall of its Spire Febr
1698. is most humbly Inscribed

THE OLD CHURCH.

ADDENDA.

BUCKINGHAM PARISH CHURCH.

THE history of this Church, as far as can be collected from ancient records and documents, is as follows:

It was originally dependent on the Church of Sutton Regis, in the County of Northampton, and was with that Church, and that of Horley in Oxfordshire, made a Prebend in the Cathedral of Lincoln, at the early period of 1090, from which time, until about the year 1446, Buckingham was a Chapel, supplied from time to time by the Prebendary of Sutton-cum-Buckingham and Horley.

In or about the years 1445 or 1446 a Vicarage was endowed at Buckingham, with certain small tithes. This Vicarial Endowment is extant, and a copy of it may be obtained if necessary. From that time to the present Buckingham has continued to be a Vicarage, presented to by the Prebendary of Sutton, as long as that Prebend existed, and since then by the owners of the Impropriation. At the time when Buckingham was made Prebendal, it was by King William Rufus (as may be seen by Dugdale's "Monastican Anglicanum," vol. 3, p. 259), confirmed to the Church of Lincoln under this description, viz.: "Ecclesiam de Buckingham aim Terris et decimis et und Carncata Terrea in Gaucota"—now called Gawcott.

It remained a Prebend in the Church of Lincoln until the reign of King Edward the Sixth, when this Prebend of Sutton-cum-Buckingham, being the most valuable Prebend in the Kingdom except one (Massam, in the county of York), was surrendered by Richard Cox, the last Prebendary, in 1547, to the said King Edward the Sixth, and so by its dissolution becoming a lay fee, was granted out as such by the King to his uncle, Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, and he being

attainted of high treason in 1551, this Impropriation of Buckingham reverted to the Crown, in which it seems to have remained a considerable number of years, having been demised by the Crown first to Sir John Mason by Queen Mary in 1553, then to Lord Henry Seymour for his life by Queen Elizabeth, and lastly by the same Queen to the said Henry Seymour (in his surrender of the former lease), Anthony Wingfield and Robert Johnson, Gent., for their lives, in 1595. This is the last lease which can be discovered as to the Impropriation of Buckingham, neither can it be ascertained (as yet) when and to whom the Grant of this Impropriation was made.

There is reason, however, to believe that this fact might be ascertained, though not without some difficulty, by tracing the Minister's or Receiver's Accounts in the Augmentation Office from year to year until the Receiver enters his "non-respondent," because the premises are granted away.

The Grantee was probably Robert Johnson, Esq., for he presented to the Vicarage of Buckingham, in 1599. After this no presentation occurs until 1662, when Denton and others presented.

In the family of Denton, of whom there was several considerable persons (one of whom was a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas), it is believed this Impropriation continued for a great length of time, but whether down to the time when the Abstract of Title commences or not, is not known.

(The above was sent to Mr. Smith by Mr. Catey of the Augmentation Office.)

ARCHDEACON RUDYNG'S LATIN BIBLE.

THE vicissitudes of Family Bibles has always been a subject of romance, and the history of this valuable gift to the Parish has its exciting incidents, but being now carefully preserved in a glass case near the font in the Parish Church, it should be clear of all future mishap. How it was once too much taken care of is thus described in the "Parish Magazine," May, 1883:—

"A MANUSCRIPT BIBLE.—The Manuscript Latin Bible given to the Chancel of Buckingham Church, by John Rudyng, Archdeacon of Buckingham, in 1471, has just been most generously presented (!) to the Vicar and Churchwardens of Buckingham for the time being. The Bible contains the following inscription: 'Hunc Librum dedit Magist, Johês Rudyng, Archuns Lincoln Cath., curand in principali disco inpa Cancellii Eccls. succ prebendal de Buckingham ad usû Capellonorum et alior ibi in eodem studere volentû quam diu dura viut Fundator Cancellorum.'

"From another inscription therein, we find that this Bible was chained to a desk in Buckingham Chancel, was given to Browne Willis *to preserve*, and that it continued in the possession of his family until A.D. 1851 or 1852, when it was sold (together with the remaining portion of Browne Willis's Library) by Messrs. Christie & Co. for a Mr. Fleming, who received same by inheritance. The Rev. H. Roundell, a former vicar of Buckingham, purchased it from Mr. Kerslake, bookseller, Bristol, and now, by the liberality of his widow, it is restored to the Parish."

It may be added that it was the Rev. Arthur Carter, son of the late Richard Carter, Esq., Buckingham, who most fortunately noticed an advertisement of the Bible for sale in Mr. Kerslake's catalogue, and called Mr. Roundell's attention to it.

MONUMENTAL TABLETS, STAINED GLASS WINDOWS, etc., IN THE CHURCH.

In the Sanctuary, the magnificent East Window was a gift from the *Buckingham Needle and Thread Society*, and cost about £500. It was dedicated by Bishop Randall, of Reading, on the 11th May, 1890. *(See photograph and key to the subject hanging near the Tower inner door.)*

The Reredos was also subsequently given by this Society. Prior to that date, the copy of Raphæl's "Transfiguration" (now in the Vestry) stood over the Altar *(see photo of early Church interior)*. The painting is considered an excellent duplicate of the original, and was a gift by the Marquis of Buckingham.

In the Vestry there is a portrait in oils of Philip Box, Esq., the giver of the Church Organ.

Here also are preserved 4 plain pewter alms dishes, and 4 ditto engraved, "Given for the use of Buckingham Church by the Rev. Thos. Silvester, A.D. 1842."

The Silver Communion Plate (stored at Lloyds Bank for safety) comprises a flagon, 2 chalices, a paten, one dish, and a set of private communion vessels, and preserved with same is a key of the old Parish Church. One of the chalices is engraved, "To the glory of God, and in memory of Martha Silvester, these patens and chalices were renovated and silver substituted for base metal, 1896." On the silver vessels now in use, "An offering of thanksgiving for the harvest of 1854."

The Vestry Chest contains the title deeds of the ground upon which the Church stands, also a copy of "A bill for building a new Church within the town and parish of Buckingham, 1777," and a plan of the interior with all the pews set out, as originally allotted to the several householders; old certificates, etc.; also a memo. that Robt. Bartlett laid the corner stone 25th November, 1777, and the Church consecrated 6th December, 1780.

In the South wall of the Sanctuary is a Window put in by subscription in the year 1907, "To the glory of God, and in loving memory of Wm. Foxley Norris, Vicar of this Parish, from 1862 to 1879."

In the North wall is a Window similarly put in by subscription in the year 1909, "To the glory of God, in affectionate remembrance of Frederick Grave Kiddle, M.A., Priest and Vicar of this Parish, 1879 to 1899."

At the East end of the Nave (south aisle), a Window with the subjects of St. Peter and St. Paul, is dedicated "To the glory of God, and in memory of George Jones and 6 children. By his Widow. 1868."

Over same is the Martyrdom of St. Stephen, and St. Stephen making his Confession; "Erected in memory of The Rev. H. Roundell, M.A., former Vicar of this Parish (who died on St. Stephen's day, 1864), by his Widow."

In the South wall is a Window with the Latin inscription, "In memoriam, arnicæ dilectæ, E. M. C., anno, Etat 17, obiit A.D. 1858. Puella non est mortua sed dormit." (Inserted anonymously.) (Miss Carter).

Over same is a Window inscribed, "To the glory of God, and in memory of Richard and Fanny, and Thomas and Sarah Ridgway. This Window is erected by Thos. Ridgway, of Buckingham, 1885."

The next Window has a Latin inscription, "Surrexit non est hic, noli me tangere," and was put in by Miss Martha Silvester, to the memory of her sister Ann.

Then follows a Window, "In memory of Edward Bartlett, who died 30th April, 1835, and Eliza Mary, his wife, who died 7th Sept., 1856, by Mr. Herbert Bartlett, in memory of his parents."

And next a Window: "Erected to the memory of Richard Elkington, who died 7th December, 1863, aged 50, by his Widow."

And next the South porch: "In memory of Stephen Cooke, who died January 9th, 1885." (On a brass tablet also to his memory it states he died January 14th, 1885.)

At the bottom of the South aisle (behind the Font) is a window put in by "Persons baptized in this Church and by their friends."

The Mural Tablets at the West end of the Nave comprise:

Brass: "The upper Window on the North-west of the Nave (next to the Vestry), was erected by many friends in grateful remembrance of Edward Parrott, Banker, who died January 27th, 1878."

Marble Slab: "To the memory of Philip Box, of this town, who died 22nd August, 1833, aged 76, and of his Widow, Penelope Box, who died 21st November, 1850, aged 95, and of Mrs. Mary Clarke, Widow, who died March, 1820, aged 90." *(See portrait in oils of Mr. Box in the Organ Chamber).*

Brass: "In memory of John Anthony Coates, some time Churchwarden and Master of the National School."

Brass: "In memory of Stephen Cooke, who died at Buckingham, on the 14th January, 1885." *(See window also to his memory.)*

Brass: "In loving memory of Hannah Elkington, who died November 24th, 1887, aged 76 years."

"The floor of the Chancel of this Church is paved with marble by her surviving children."

Brass: "In memory of George Hanby De'Ath, Physician, of this town. Born September 16th, 1861; died July 7th, 1901. Erected by colleagues and friends."

Marble Slab: "Sacred to the memory of Mary, the beloved wife of Thos. Silvester, who died 26th April, 1852, aged 61. Also of the Rev. Thos. Silvester, Vicar of this Parish, who died September 20th, 1853, aged 69 years."

Marble Slab: "Erected by the Rev. Thos. Silvester, as a tribute of gratitude to his departed friend Ann Ellis, who died September 17th, 1840, aged 76."

The Windows on the North side are:

"In loving memory of Thomas Charles Hudson, who died at Montreal, Canada, October 13th, 1885, aged 25 years."

"In memory of Catherine Goodwin Silvester, who died August 11th, 1881."

"In loving memory of Sarah Anne Hearn, who died 23rd March, 1874."

"In remembrance of Arthur N. West, of Albourne-place, Sussex; Curate of this Church. He fell asleep in Christ, in Zanzibar, on Christmas day 1874. R.I.P."

The next Window has figures of St. John and St. Barnabas, and was inserted in memory of the Rev. Henry Roundell, M.A., by Mr. Kennaway, and other of Mr. Roundell's Curates.

"In memory of Thos. Bartlett, died November 3rd, 1850; and of Eliza Henley Bartlett, died September 4th, 1872."

Over this Window is one with the subject of our Lord feeding the 5,000, put in by the friends of the late Edward Parrott, Esq. *(See brass tablet alluding to same at the West end of Church.)*

Items of Church Furniture, etc.:

The old Vestry chest, a carved oak coffer, with an inscription: "1690. Will. Howard; Edw. Snoxell, C.W." (Churchwardens!)

A second oak coffer (plain).

A framed board (from the Old Church), giving an account of "Grove's" and "Hart's" Charities.

The beautifully carved oak Pulpit, presented by the family, and in memory of Thos. Hearn, Esq., 1856.

Oak carved lectern, with figures, etc., given by the family to the memory of Wm. Stowe, Esq., who died 22nd June, 1855.

Four gas standards in the Chancel, presented in memory of G. H. Haslop, Esq., M.D., 1867.

Two standards in the Sanctuary (originally gas and now candle), given by Mrs. E. Andrewes Uthwatt, and restored by Henrietta Uthwatt, 1897.

Pair of altar vases, and brass reading desk, given by Mrs. Eliza Henley Bartlett.

The altar cross and the litany desk in memory of Mrs. Kiddle.

In the Nave, suspended from the roof, is the handsome brass chandelier "the gift of Browne Willis, Esq., Member of Parliament for Buck Anno Domini 1705."

At the South-west corner is now "The Rudyng Bible," preserved in glass case *(see separate chapter on its history)*, and the carved sto font, with counter-balanced cover, the gift of Wm. Risley, Esq., Deddington, who also gave the oak planking from which the sta s are carved in the Chancel.

The Church Clock in the Belfry Tower is a 30-hour one, working three f es with skeleton dials. It was supplied by Messrs. Handley & Mc e, of Clerkenwell Close, in the year 1807; and on a brass p te attached are the names of the then 9 Churchwardens.

The Spire was cleaned down about a year ago, and the Vane re-gilt, &

Information gleaned from Mr. Roundell's private Memoirs since the foregoing pages were printed.

Old Town Hall built, 1680, by Sir Ralph Verney (Sir Richard Temple having provided the timber).

1783—The Corporation met at the "Cobham Arms Inn," as the old Sessions House was pulled down and the new Town Hall not finished. *(See Corporation Records, page 191).*

1762, 6th November—Mr. Colton saw the Arms of Archdeacon Rudyng (a crescent between 5 escallop shells) on his monument in Biggleswade Church.

(See page 70.) Buckingham Marble Quarry.—Two paragraphs from newspapers (but undated) are pasted in Lyson's book, in one of which it is presumed that this Buckingham Marble "will ere long almost wholly supersede the use of foreign marble in our houses, and at the same time be a source of our own national wealth and a privation to the enemy"!

April, 1725—Collected at Wendover for a fire at Buckingham, £25 14s. 6d.—the largest collection ever known at Wendover.

Within two miles of Buckingham is "Stowe," the seat and gardens of Lord Cobham, which last are esteemed the finest of their kind in England; are indeed most elegantly disposed and beautifully diversified with walks and lawns, canals and grottoes, waterfalls, and various buildings, such as temples, rotundas, obelisks and colonades; in short, you'll find beautiful Nature improved by happy Art.—*From "Cole's Manuscripts," in the British Museum.*

Quotation from Horace Walpole:—

"I love antiquities, but scarce ever knew an antiquary that could write upon them—their understandings seem as much in ruin as the things they describe."

ERRATA.

Page 62.—Mr. T. Owaine Jones is omitted as Latin School Master from 1861 to 1868.

„ 84.—Mr. W. J. Gough's name is omitted between Mr. Bennett and Mr. Turner (White Hart).

„ 84.—Mr. Thos. Holton's name is omitted between Wheeler and Crofts (as Upholsterers).

„ 101.—February 17th, 1885, is omitted as the date of Wedding of His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos.

„ 103.—For January 17th, 1899, read June 17th (Wool Fair day).

THE KING'S VILLAGE IN DEMESNE:

OR

A Thousand Years of Winslow Life.

BEING

AN ACCOUNT OF THE

TOWN & MANOR OF WINSLOW.

BY

ARTHUR CLEAR,

(Honorary Member of the Bucks Archæological Society),

WINSLOW:

PRINTED BY EDWIN J. FRENCH

1894.

INTRODUCTION.

When the substance of the following pages was first given in the form of a Lecture (in 1888), the writer disclaimed any title to originality, and remarked that in compiling the same, he had found himself much in the position of a gleaner in the harvest field, searching patiently among the stubble, after the corn had been reaped and gathered in. True that here and there he had found an ear of corn which had been previously overlooked; yet his gathering would have been but small had he not availed himself of the full sheaves of others. Other men had laboured, and he had entered into their labours and researches. They had long passed away, leaving their foot-prints on the sands of time, yet he was glad to pay an humble tribute to their memory.

In sending forth this revised and enlarged Edition, he would gratefully acknowledge the generous help rendered by many friends, in the loan of ancient Deeds or transcripts, and translations of the same.

He would plead to be excused for the frequent repetition he fears will be found in these pages, consequent upon the quotations from many Authors, and the division of the Manor into separate parishes and places; the same fact often applying equally to each.

In attempting the history of this ancient Manor he cannot hope to have entirely escaped errors, so will crave the favourable consideration of his readers in the words of the poet Chaucer :—

> "Go little booke, God send thee good passage,
> And specially let this be thy prayere—
> Unto them all that thee will read or hear,
> Where thou art wrong, after their help to call
> Thee to correct, in any part, or all."

A. CLEAR.

Winslow, Bucks.

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WINSLOW.

Romo-British Period.

We cannot claim for our town of Winslow those marks of great antiquity which some places possess, nor can we boast of the remains of Roman Villas with fine tesselated pavements and many other signs of early advanced civilization, yet some traces of the former Roman inhabitants have been discovered in the immediate neighbourhood. Their coins have been found in our fields, and probably some early Roman settler once had his abode on the brow of the hill about midway between Winslow and Great Horwood, where the remains of extensive intrenchments may still be noticed. Here in 1872 were discovered some Roman articles of an interesting character, consisting of a Fibula, or Brooch, a Pin, a finger Ring, and five Spoons, all of silver; in the bowl of one of the spoons the words "Veneria Vivas" were engraved, the articles being probably a birthday or wedding present to a Roman lady named Veneria; (some of these articles are now preserved in the Museum of the Bucks Archæological Society at Aylesbury).

They also possessed at least two strong military encampments or stations in this vicinity,—viz., one at Great Horwood at a spot called "Castle Field", the other at "Narbury" in Little Horwood parish; the latter a few years since was a very perfect specimen of a Roman camp, enclosing an area of five acres, the vallum and fosse appearing to have undergone no material alteration since the position was abandoned, but during the last few years the spot has partly been brought under cultivation, and the ground is gradually being levelled by the plough.

Near these stations various relics and coins have been found, including a large hoard discovered at "Narbury" in 1849 of very ancient British gold coins, belonging to the period just previous to the annexation of Britain as a Roman province.

In the journals of the Archæological Society, vol. xi, page 429, it is stated that "A torque about five inches diameter, described as of copper, made of a single wire, with the ends turned back so as to form hooks, and on each a lenticular button of metal, probably of late Celtic make, was found near Winslow, 1793."

Anglo-Saxon Period.

The name Winslow, or as it has been variously spelt, Wineslai, Winneslawe, Wyneslowe, Winslawe, is doubtless one of Anglo-Saxon origin; the latter part of the word, "hloew" "hlaw," signifying "a Memorial heap or Barrow," or "a small hill or tract of ground gently rising."

This word "hleow" enters into the composition of a large number of English local names, of which we have instances in Creslow, Bledlow, Taplow and Marlow in this county.

Some have conjectured that the name is taken from "Windeshlaw," a bleak windy hill; but this description hardly applies to the position of the place, and it is more probably derived from *Wini*, a personal name, not uncommon among the Anglo-Saxons, and would thus signify the hill-dwelling of Wini, and would so perpetuate the name of the first Saxon settler upon the spot, or that of an early possessor.

The Venerable Bede mentions *Wini* a Saxon Bishop of Dorchester, Oxon, (which Diocese included part of Bucks), who having quarrelled with the King of Wessex, was expelled from his Bishopric and took refuge with the King of Mercia. Of course we are not warranted in claiming this Bishop *Wini* as a native of *Wineslai*, but the conjecture is quite as plausible as are many of the legends of the old Monkish historians.

Another derivation is that of "Winneshlaw," the mound of battle; if we accept this, then we would suggest that the spot so long known as "The Red Field," in the hamlet of Shipton, may perchance mark the very site, where in days of yore, some fierce encounter took place between the early British inhabitants and a body of the West Saxon invaders.

The date of the Saxon conquest of this particular district, may be pretty clearly placed about the year, A.D., 571, when according to the Saxon Chronicle, "Cuthwulf fought with the British at Bed-can-ford, (now Bedford), and took four of their chief towns." Among the places mentioned being Aegles-birg, (now Aylesbury), and Lygean-birg, (Lenborough); in fact the whole District, now comprising Beds, Bucks, and Oxfordshire seems then to have fallen into their hands.

In "Camden's Britannia" it is suggested that Leighton Buzzard is the town intended by Lygeanbirg, and the route taken by the army of Cuthwulph was from Bedford to Leighton, then on to Aylesbury, and from that town they marched to Bensington, Oxon.

It was doubtless at this time, that the Saxons settled down at *Wineslai*, and some royal chieftain made it his residence; but a period of 200 years had elapsed before we find mention of it as a Royal Manor and a Palace of the Mercian Kings, whose actions had such influence over the destinies of the inhabitants during "A Thousand Years of Winslow Life."

The late John Cowley, Esq., Surgeon, of Winslow, made a most valuable collection of local antiquities, among which were a quantity of supposed Saxon coins, found on Dene Hill, Winslow. These were all dispersed at his death in 1856.

King Offa's connection with Winslow.

The Manor of Winslow from an early period, formed part of the possessions of the royal family of Mercia, and we have the direct authority of Matthew Paris, that King Offa had a Palace with a Chapel at Winslow, and that the Manor was of great extent.

From certain inequalities of the ground, and other evidence, we may fairly conjecture that this "Palace" was situated as the name of the parish would imply, "on the small hill, or tract of ground gently rising," now, and for more than 500 years past called "Dene Hill," being the highest spot in the parish, overlooking the Shipton Valley, with the brook gently winding its way beneath.

King Offa appears to have had several places of residence, and we are warranted in supposing that his Palace at Winslow was a building of some magnitude and importance. Something of his name appears in many villages, as if they had once belonged to him, if not the actual places of his abode, such as Offley in Herts, (where he died), Offington in Berkshire, and Ofton in Warwickshire. One writer says "Offa having attained to old age, associated his son as regent with him, and was passing his days in great tranquillity, when he conceived an intention of founding a Monastery, and in endowing the same, of giving to it the Manor of Winslow, *where he was then living.*

Offa has been termed the "Magnificent." Having paid a lengthened visit to Rome, he appears to have become acquainted with the arts and sciences, and upon his return, to have brought over to England skilled workmen from that city. He was a Prince so considerable, that he enjoyed the friendship of the Emperor Charlemagne. His coins are remarkable for the beauty of their execution, far exceeding in correctness of design and sharpness of impression those of his predecessors. As an instance of his energy and force of character, we may mention that he caused a deep entrenchment to be made, reaching for many miles, from the River Wye to the Dee, (still known as Offa's Dyke), to defend his country from the incursions of the Welsh.

Matthew Paris relates that it was in the Chapel of his Palace at Winslow, that Offa received a direct revelation from God, which determined him to build a Monastery, and he there made a formal vow to carry it into effect.

The vow made by Offa that he would endow his projected Abbey with his Manor and Palace of Winslow, seems to have been fully carried out. Matthew Paris describes it as being

situate about twenty miles distant from St. Albans, and the Manor as about twenty miles in circumference, and as his authority, he states that the writings of the King, conferring the gift, were then preserved in the Abbey to testify to the truth of his statement.

It would appear that in those days the computed miles must have been double the present measurement.

Offa appears to have retained this privilege for Winslow, that while all other lands and families were subject to the tax of Peter-pence, this Manor alone was ever exempt.

Another account states—"In 794, King Offa on returning from Rome, held a council at Verulam, and founded the Monastery of St. Alban, and among other endowments gave it to Weneslowe, "the King's Village in demesne," twenty miles from Verulam, (now Wynslowe), in the County of Bucks.

Browne Willis in his History of Buckingham, page 359, says "the word Demesnè has divers significations, but the most common one is to signify the lord's chief seat or mansion, with the lands belonging to it, which the lord kept and preserved for his own use, in opposition to such lands as were held of him by services."

An ancient writer states:—"This Offa, King of Mercia, most treacherously slew Ethelbert, the young King of the East Angles, while on a visit at Offa's Palace at Sutton, near Hereford, where he was making suit to his daughter, the nobles of Ethelbert being also assembled there to celebrate his nuptials." Ethelbert being the last of that royal family, Offa seized his kingdom, and subdued the people by violence. He afterwards sought to retrieve his character, and perhaps appease the remorse of his conscience by paying court to the clergy, and practising all the monkish devotions, which in that age of ignorance and superstition were in the greatest esteem. He also appears to have trusted to his riches and power to obtain him absolution, and as a final act of atonement, he seems to have determined to found a Monastery in which prayers might be daily offered for himself.

William Camden in his *Britannia*, (published 1586), seems to show that this murder of Ethelbert was committed at the instigation of King Offa's wife. He says "The martyrdom of Ethelbert, King of the East Angles, took place whilst in person he courted the daughter of Offa, King of the Mercians, for he was villainously waylaid and murdered by Quendreda, Offa's wife, who longed more for the Kingdom of the East Angles, than to have her daughter honestly and honourably married."

Offa seems to have been perplexed and undecided where to erect this Monastery, but in this perplexity he was relieved (says Matthew Paris) by a kind of miraculous intelligence, for being then at his Palace at Winslow, and in deep meditation on this subject, he prayed with great earnestness to God, who had so often

delivered him from the many snares and traps of his wife, and the dangers and assaults of his enemies, so he would vouchsafe to grant him further light and information, to enable him to complete his vow of founding a Monastery, then concluding with an earnest address to his relations and brethren, that they would unanimously and devoutly beseech God to enable him to bring his intent to effect. The history says that all present retired into the Chapel to pray, and that the congregation having prayed longer than ordinary, and with the same wishes that the king had expressed, a sudden light from heaven filled the place with uncommon splendour. This was considered as a token of God's favour, and the King determined to grant the royal Manor of Winslow where this miracle had happened, to endow his new foundation.

After some time, he was at Bath, where in the rest and silence of the night, he seemed to be accosted by an angel who admonished him to raise out of the earth the body of the first British martyr, Alban, and place his remains in a shrine with more suitable adornment. The history saith, that as the King was journeying towards Verulam, there appeared to him a light from heaven, shining over the place where the body of Alban was afterwards found, and there he determined to erect a Monastery and shrine in honour of that saint. This discovery of the remains of Alban is alleged to have happened 507 years after his death, on the 1st day of August, A.D. 791, in the 36th year of Offa's reign.

Matthew Paris says "When Offa of immortal memory had nearly completed the Abbey, with all the offices and necessary buildings, which within the fourth year he had effected, and placed therein about 100 monks, he retired to his Palace at Great Offley, near Hitchen, Herts, and there closed the scene of his life, July 23rd, A.D. 796. He was carried to Bedford and buried in a royal manner in the Chapel of a Saxon Monastery, without the town on the banks of the Ouse, which he had selected for his burial place; but the floods have long since swept away his place of sepulchre, no care having ever been taken by the monks to preserve the remains of so great a king, and so liberal a benefactor to the Church."

Sir Henry Chauncy, Knt., in his History of Hertfordshire, Anno, 1700, says that Offa gave to the Convent of St. Alban, twelve mansions in his Manor of *Winxislaue.*

Danish Period.

We have only slight evidences of the powerful ascendancy of the Danes in this neighbourhood, yet some of the local names are of Danish origin, i.e., the adjoining village of Swanbourne is considered to have derived its name either from "Sweyn," King

of Denmark, or another Dane, Suen or Swane, Earl of Essex, who held the Manor in early times, and we find that at *Claindone* (East Claydon), before the Conquest, "Suen," a man of Algar, standard-bearer to King Edward, held an estate without the privilege of alienation." Adstock is also represented as having formed part of the lands of Goodwin, Earl of Kent, whose second wife, *Gytha*, was sister of Suen, King of Denmark.

Mention is made of this warlike people, as having made incursions in the neighbourhood of Buckingham, as early as 918, and we learn that in 941 the Danes ravaged that town, and plundered the adjacent country. In the district between Buckingham and Aylesbury, including Winslow, it is said that they "ruined the miserable inhabitants by fire and sword, and carried away both men and cattle;" it is also stated that many battles were fought between the Danes and the inhabitants in the forest of Bernewood, which then reached to East Claydon.

The Norman Manor and its Inhabitants.

When William the Conqueror made his famous Domesday survey about 1080, *Wineslai* still formed part of the possessions of St. Alban's Abbey, for which it is stated, the Abbot was rated at "Fifteen Hides." There were also five hides, three servants, three ploughs, and land enough for another plough in the demesne; seventeen villeins with five bordars held fifteen carucates of land. Of meadow land there were nineteen carucates, and a wood, worth ten shillings a year; the whole being constantly valued at £xi xiii*s.* iv*d.*

The ancient measure of land intended by the word "Hide," has been variously described by different writers, but it is generally considered to have been that quantity which a plough team of say, eight oxen could cultivate, or as much as would maintain a family, and so varied in different parts of the country, according to the quality of the land, and mode of tillage.

An eminent modern writer, F. Seebohm, Esq., in "The English Village Community," a work of much research, considers that the "Hide" consisted of 120 acres, and a "Virgate" of 30 acres, or the quarter of a Hide.

The "Carucate" was a measure more particularly in use in the Danish parts of England. and nearly corresponded with the Hide, but it referred more directly to land under cultivation, and for the purpose of assessment, it also included the farm implements, and teams which carried on the work.

The "Servi" or Servants may be described as domestic or farm slaves, living upon the estate of their masters, who could sell or dispose of them at pleasure.

Browne Willis says "The Servi were predial servants who performed such services and works as their lords required, and had nothing but what they gained or acquired by the good will of their lords, who fed and kept them."

The "Villeins" were also husbandry slaves, but they were a grade above the Servi, yet were so bound to the land, that they could not leave the Manor. They held some land which they cultivated upon their own account, and were probably designated Villeins, from living in the Vil or Village.

A "Bordar" was a cottager or small farmer, who was bound to perform the base services for his lord, and he could not sell nor mortgage his holding without the consent of his lord. Browne Willis says "The Bordarri or Bordars are understood to have been cottagers or boors, who held a little house of husbandry with some land, on condition that they should supply their lord with some small provision for his board and entertainment."

The position of affairs in the Manor of Winslow at this period, 1080, would appear to be somewhat as follows:—

The Abbot of St. Albans, as lord of the Manor was rated for 1800 acres of land. In the Demesne there were 600 acres, and three servants or slaves; to cultivate the land there were three plough teams, and there was sufficient uncultivated land to find work for another team if required. The seventeen Villeins named, would probably each have a yard-land of some thirty or forty acres under crop, but in addition to cultivating their own land, they would probably have to work for two or three days in each week for their lord without payment, for they were required to perform the customary services, and to assist largely in cultivating his land in the demesne. The five Bordars had each an holding of about five acres, they were in a very humble position, and were not able to supply any oxen for the village plough teams. The Villeins and Bordars held between them sufficient land to employ fifteen plough teams, and there was meadow land sufficient for nineteen teams, and a wood worth ten shillings a year.

Such is the picture of *Wineslai*, as given us in the Domesday survey, more than eight hundred years ago. We are surprised at the small number of the inhabitants, hardly sufficient to work the plough teams, while no mention is made of either priests, freemen, or mechanics, all of whom we should expect to find in a Manor under the direct control of the Abbot of St. Albans.

The fact of its being a *Manor* would imply that there were originally a fair number of inhabitants, but the withdrawal of the Mercian Court after the conquest by King Edward, and the devastation of the Danes, who either killed or carried away many of the people as prisoners, would in some degree account for the dimished number of the inhabitants. It will be noticed that only some twenty-five persons are directly mentioned, to which may

be added the family occupying the Manor House, probably that of the Steward, yet making a liberal allowance for the Villeins and small tenants, still the total population of Winslow at that period could hardly have reached two hundred.

If we are correct in assuming the "Hide" of land to consist of 120 acres, according to present measurement, then the quantity of land in Winslow at the time of the Domesday survey, was greater than at present, this may be accounted for by the fact that Little Horwood is not mentioned in that famous survey, so that the cultivated land is probably included with Winslow, of which Manor it had long formed a part.

The yearly value or assessment of the Manor seems very small according to modern ideas, (£11 13s. 4d.) yet we are told that it was constantly valued at that sum; no doubt dating back to the time of Edward the Confessor. As an illustration of the greater purchasing power of money in those days, we find that horses were than valued at 10s.0d., oxen at 5s.0d., sheep 5d., and pigs 4d. each, and the price of a "Hide" of good land was about five pounds.

The ordinary Manor House of the eleventh and twelfth centuries, generally consisted of a large hall, in which the lord and his retainers lived, dined, and slept; the chapel, kitchen, and other rooms were separate buildings within the court-yard, being connected with the hall by covered passages. In the following century it became common to attach another building to the hall, with chambers on the first floor, the space underneath being used as a cellar.

The dwellings of persons of a more humble position were rude and barn-like, with earthen floors, and hardly any furniture, while earthenware plates and drinking glasses were unknown; at this time the homes of the poor must have been most miserable according to our present notions of comfort.

The tillage of the land was of a very primitive description, but it was absolutely necessary that the small landholder should possess some implements and stock for working his land; so we find that as far back as the time of Edward the Confessor, and probably from a much earlier period, that a pair of oxen, and in some instances a cow, and six sheep, with tools for his work, were provided by the lord of the Manor, and went with the holding, so that by combining their stock, they were able to form the village plough teams. The possession of cattle would have been but of little use unless the Villeins had the means of feeding them, so for hay, they had strips of meadow land, and for pasturage their cattle could feed upon the waste and other land not immediately under crop.

Thirteenth Century Period.

As time rolls on, and we obtain more direct documentary evidence, we are able to get a more vivid and distinct insight into the domestic life of the inhabitants of the "Vil of Wynselowe."

In the 13th century it is evident that Winslow had begun to improve, and its inhabitants to increase, for we find that A.D. 1235, the Abbot and Convent of St. Alban received a grant from King Henry III, authorising them to hold a weekly Market here. Also a Fair on the Feast of St. Laurence, August 10th, of which we elsewhere give the Charter. There was probably a water mill at Biggin from an early date, and in later times windmills stood at "Mill Hill", Grandborough, and "Mill Knoll", Winslow, but the first direct mention of the mill is in 1326, when we find that the Manor, with the Market, Rents, and a Mill, were let on lease for 100 marks yearly rent.

As we have elsewhere mentioned, the tenants of the Manor were compelled to grind their corn at the lord's mill, and, of course, pay the toll demanded, to which they appear to have had a very great objection, for we find that in after years when they broke out into open rebellion under Wat Tyler, in 1381, and threatened the destruction of St. Alban's Abbey, that the insurgents, including many of the oppressed inhabitants of "Wyncelow and Greneberge" upon breaking into the Abbey, at once took possession of the handmills, which the Abbot had seized and confiscated, in order to prevent them from grinding their corn at home.

We have, elsewhere, called attention to the "Manor Roll of Winslow," a Latin manuscript, now preserved in the Cambridge University Library, commencing in the reign of Edward III, and continued during the reign of Henry VI, in which the accounts of the Manor appear to have been kept with scrupulous accuracy and care, and every change of ownership in the Manor in the period extending from A.D. 1327 to 1377 is recorded in regular form. Occasionally we find copies of wills, for it appears that holders of land in villeinage, even "Nativi" could make wills, which were proved before the *Cellerarius* of the Abbey, probably at Biggin, while the wills of the free tenants were proved at St. Albans.

At this time the land seems strictly to have been held in Villienage at the will of the lord of the Manor, for centuries after this it lay in open fields ; a great number of the holdings were those of small cottier tenants, and varied in size from one half-acre to ten or a dozen half-acre plots or strips, in nearly every instance a tenement went with the land. Occasionally we find they held a Virgate of about 30 acres, not contiguous, but

scattered in half-acre pieces all over the common fields, there was an east field, a west field, and south field. The houses were generally placed together, forming the Vil or Village.

Among the Winslow and Shipton tenants we find John Moldson, John Mayn, John Watekyns, Henry Warde, William Jonynges, Henry Boveton, John Hikkes, Richard Lif, John Howeprest, Richard atte Hall, and Matthew atte Lane.

It is not possible to ascertain from this Manor Roll the exact acreage or population of the parish of "Wynselowe" as then constituted; but in the year of the Black Death, 1348-9, as many as 153 changes of holding took place in the Manor upon account of the death of previous tenants, and out of fortythree jurymen who had served in the "Halimote" or Court of the Manor in 1346, 1347 and 1348, thirty-seven had died in 1348-9 of that most fearful disease. All the 153 holdings which changed hands on the death of the tenants, as just mentioned, appear to have been re-granted to the single heir of the deceased holder, or to a reversioner, or in default of such were retained by the lord.

The *Heriot* demanded was generally an ox, or money payment of its value, and sometimes when the tenant could not pay, an half-acre of land was deducted from his holding, and held by the lord instead of the Heriot. Although there were indications of the dawning of a time of greater freedom, and this villeinage of the tenants was becoming milder in its character, yet they must have keenly felt the yoke of serfdom to which they were subject, for instances are not wanting in which the lord, to show his authority, issued the most trivial orders, such as directing that the tenants should go off to the woods and pick nuts for his use. If the "Nativei" married without the lord's consent, they were fined; if they allowed their houses to get out of repair they were fined for being guilt of waste; if they sold an ox without the license of the lord, again they were fined; if they left the Manor without permission, they were searched for, and if found, arrested as fugitives, and brought back to servitude, (many instances of this offence are mentioned in the Court Rolls.) If their daughters lost their chastity, the lord again had his fine; twenty-two cases of this kind are reported in the Manor Rolls, during the first ten years of Edward III. In all these offences the whole of the jury were also fined if they neglected to report the delinquent; but soon murmurs were heard at the Court, and a spirit of resentment and insubordination was to be seen among the Villein tenants, (instances of which are duly recorded on the Court Roll in 1350), and clearly indicate the presence of smouldering embers, very likely to burst into a flame, in fact the whole kingdom soon broke out into open rebellion, and showed that the people could no longer be

oppressed with impunity.

Modern Customs of the Manor.

Before leaving the subject of the Manor and the authority of its lord over the property of the inhabitants, it may not be amiss to take a glimpse at the customs of the Manor in their more modern aspect.

As we have before shown: from a very early period the lord exercised an almost unlimited power over his tenants, their goods and chattels; they were obliged to plough his land for so many days in the year, to cut his hay and corn, and do any kind of servile work.

For many centuries the "Halimote," or court of the Manor has continued to be held, at the "Court Baron" all tenants were admitted to, or surrendered their copyhold estates, and various fines, heriots, and customs were received; at the "Court Leet" all cases of encroachment, nuisances, fraudulent weights and measures, etc. were dealt with, the Steward being judge, with a jury of copyholders, a constable of the Leet being also appointed.

The Heriot, or custom of seizing some article of value upon the death of a Copyholder, was perhaps the most annoying of all the remaining vestiges of feudal times, for as soon as a death was known to have occurred, the Constable of the Leet made his appearance upon the premises, and seized the very best article upon which he could lay hands, in many instances inflicting great injustice and hardship upon those just bereaved; this custom is now generally compounded for by the payment of a fine, but the power to seize any goods still remains.

The following instances of this custom are taken from old records of the Manor.—

1760—taken for an Heriot on the death of Mr. Evans "a cart"; received composition for same £5 5s. 1761—taken for an Heriot on the death of Keziah Gibbs "a furniss"; recd. composition £1 11s. 6d. 1761—taken for a *Harriot* on ye death of Geo. Thorpe "a waggon"; recd. of his widow £5 composition. 1768—taken for a Heriot on the death of John Barton, late of Winslow, "a looking glass"; of the value of one guinea, being the best *good* in his dwelling-house. 1769—taken for Heriot on the death of George Maydon "a mare"; valued (by William Gibbs) at £4 10s. 1772—recd. for an Heriot on the death of Widow Allen "a feather bed," delivered to Mr. Lowndes, valued at £3 3s. 0d. 1798—the Heriot due on the death of William Goodman, was his large Brewing Copper, value 30/-. 1799—received for a Heriot on the death of Mr. Richd. Stevens "one cow"; value £14, taken for Mr. Selby's own use. 1809, Aug. 4th.—taken for an Heriot on

the death of Mr. Newman Williatt, of Buckingham, "a horse"; valued at £31 10 0d. 1812—Heriot taken on the death of James Morris of Winslow "a lead cistern" value £10.

Among the many instances of "admissions" or "surrenders" of property, the following may be taken as illustrations. Private Court, May 14th, 1753.—George Meiden and his wife admitted to a Messuage in "Cow Street;" fine 10/-. Feb. 25th, 1756.—Stephen Gibbs and wife were admitted to a house in the Butter Market; fine 10/-. 1762—received of Mr. Stephen Gibbs for a fine on admission to a Messuage at Winslow called "Ye Windmill," 10/-. Court Baron, 28th October, 1793, paid for a fine on the admission of William King to the "Bell" Inn, in Winslow, on the surrender of Charles Lucas, £5 5s. 0d. 1812—received of Thomas Pursell and William Pursell, for fines on their admission to the "Bell" Inn, in Winslow, on the surrender of William King's assignees, £10. 1816, October 28th—received of George Hawley and Robert Ivetts for fines on their admission to the west end of a barn, lately converted into a Chapel or Meeting-house in Great Horn Street, in Winslow, on the surrender of Edmund Cox, 10/-. In 1824 mention is made of a Quit Rent of 3d. having been paid for the Baptist Meeting-house in "Pillars Ditch," and a similar sum for the Independent Meeting-house, Great Horn Street.

Of fines enforced for other purposes, we may note:—1740, October 10th,—Winslow Common, fine 16s.4d., Shipton Common, fine 8s.4d. 1749—Shipton Common, fine "all but Thos. Woolhead's, 6d., and one house as is down," 7/-. 1758.—received of Tho. Tattam, of Winslow, 13/6 for "Head Silver" for Winslow, and of Edward Allen, of Shipton, for "Head Silver" for Shipton, 6s.6d. 1769— received of the several Malsters of Winslow for Toll Barley, £1 0s. 7½d. 1782, 28th October.—"At this court the jury upon their oath, present Thomas Deverell, Grocer, for using two quarter-of-a-pound weights which are deficient, and he is *in mercy* 3/-," (query amerced). At this court eleven other trademen were similarly dealt with, small fines in each case being inflicted. 1782—"Thomas Ives was continued and sworn Headborough and Bellman for the ensuing year." 1783—"Paid for the keep of two stolen Horses, placed in the custody of the lord of the Manor by the Parish Officers, which were taken from the housebreakers apprehended at Winslow, £2."

Although many of the worst features of this relic of a past age of serfdom and villeinage have gradually been allowed to lapse, or remain dormant, yet that these Fines and Heriots are still pretty rigidly enforced is a fact well known, no less a sum than £84 being charged in 1885 to enfranchise the quarter-of-an-acre of land upon which the new Congrega-

tional Chapel at Winslow now stands.

Specimen of a Modern Admission to Copyhold Property.

The Manor of Winslow with its Members in the County of Bucks.

At the Court Baron of Richard Lowndes, Esq., lord of the said Manor, holden for the said Manor, on Friday the fifth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and sixty, and in the thirty-third year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord, George the Second, by the grace of God of Great Britain, ffrance and Ireland, King, defender of the ffaith, and so forth, by William Dumcombe, Gentleman, Steward there.

At this Court it is presented by the Homage on oath, that William Markham, late of the Six Clerks Office, London, Gentleman, but now of the Town of Northampton, Gentleman, one of the customary tenants of the Manor aforesaid, Did out of Court surrender by the rod into the hands of the lord of the said Manor, by his said Steward of the Manor aforesaid, according to the custom there, all that Messuage or Tenement, with the appurtenances, situate, and being at the townsend of Winslow aforesaid, called "Sheepcoate House," and all those three acres of land to the said Messuage adjoining, called Sheepcoate Leyes, the highway lying on the east part thereof, and also all those eight ridges of Arable Land, lying together in the common fields of Winslow aforesaid, called New Mill Field, in a furlong there called Bubblers Gore, the King's highway there lying on the north, east, and west parts.

Now to this Court did come in his own proper person, Robert Bigg, of the Post Office, London, and desires the lord of the said Manor, to be admitted tenant thereof, to whom the Lord of the said Manor by the hands of the said Steward, grants seizin thereof, by the rod; to have and to hold the said Messuage, Lands and Tenements, with the appurtenances, unto the said Robert Bigg, his heirs and assigns for ever. Of the lord by the rod, at the will of the lord according to the custom of the said Manor, by the yearly rent of—— fealty, suit of Court, and other services and customs, therefore due and by right accustomed, and he gives to the lord for a fine for such his estate, so to be had in the premises, four pounds ten shillings, and he is thereof admitted tenant.

Charter for Winslow Market and Fair, Henry III, A.D. 1235.

The King has granted to the Abbot of St. Alban, by his Charter, that he and his successors for ever should hold one Market on his Manor of Wyneslawe each week, on Thursday, and one Feast on the same Manor each year, to last for two days, viz:—on the eve and on the day of St. Laurence, unless it shall be changed, and unless that feast should be to the injury of neighbouring tradesmen and neighbouring feasts, (as aforesaid), and orders are given to the (Deputy of) Earl of Bucks that they cause the aforesaid Market and aforesaid Feast to be proclaimed, and held through his bailiwick, as aforesaid. The King being witness to this.

The Manor Rolls.

Extracts from the Manor Roll of Winslow during the reigns of Edward III, and Henry VI, now preserved in the Cambridge University Library, D.D. vii, 22.

The Manor then included Wynselowe, Horlewode, Greneburgh, "Nova Villa de Wynselowe, Shipton, Onyng, and Muston." It will be noticed that mention is made both of Winslow and New Winslow. We regret that no information has been obtained to throw any light upon this interesting suggestion.

These extracts do not profess to be a literal translation of the Latin in which the original entries were made, yet they will serve to give a fair idea of their purport; some of the entries scattered throughout the book are very peculiar and suggestive, such as— "There are certain peasants, (named), being slaves, who are not able to marry their daughters except by consent [or at the will] of the lord of the Manor." "The common people cannot free themselves, or their sons and daughters without the consent of the lord." Again complaints were made against certain persons named, that they, being serfs in a state of bondage or slavery, neglected, or omitted to perform the required services. "Robert de Fitzneal has withdrawn, carelessly, from endeavouring to do any work long since, therefore he is fined 3d."

Halimote [or Court of the Manor] of Wynselowe on the nearest day of the month, before the Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, in the 22nd year of the reign of King Edward III, 1347,

John Long has surrendered into the hands of the lord, the half-acre of land with its belongings, lying above Mill Hill, [Grandborough,] near the land belonging to the Monastery, (probably at Biggin). And the lord has granted the aforesaid land with all its belongings, to Isabella Ellyott, to be held by her, and her descendants, in Villeinage, at the will of the lord, by service thence owing and customary, and she paid the fine of iis. and gave allegiance.

Randolph Henries received permission for his son, Galfridus, to be placed at the Church School, (or School of the Monks, "Scolas Clericales," probably at Biggin), and he paid the fine of xiid.

John Howeprest, and Alice his wife, having been threatened, gave up into the hands of the lord, one Cottage and its belongings, with the curtilage next to the tenement of John le Warde, and three half-acres of land, one of which lies next to the land of John Peres, in Clayfurlong, and another half-acre lies next to the land of John Horewode, and another half-acre lies above Elder-layes, next to the land of William Ponteys. And the lord has granted the said Cottage &c. and land to John Hughprest, and Alice his wife, for the rest of their lives, and to Ellen, their daughter, for the rest of her life, and after her decease may continue for the heirs of the said John and Alice, to be held from the lord (by, or through the Rod), in Villeinage, at will, for services and usages, such as are due and customary, and he paid the fine of 5s. od., and gave allegiance.

Halimote of Winslow on the next day of the month after the Feast of St. Dionish, in the 23rd year of Edward III.—

Radulfus Geffes restored again into the hands of the lord one cottage, and the lord granted the same to John Reynalds, Priest of Grandborough ["Clerico de Greneburgh"], to hold the same for

himself and his successors in Villeinage, and at the will of the lord, by service, and he paid the fine xiid. etc.

In the 25th year of Edward III, in order to test the obedience of the Winslow Tenants, the lord seems to have issued a trivial order that they should go off to the woods and pick nuts for his use.

Some of the tenants appear to have resented this occasional service, [Pecaviæ] and to settle this matter, a court was held under a great ash tree at St. Albans. "John Boveton, John Mold, Walter Lambe, John Watekyns, Will Hobbes, John Mayn, Will Lambe, and Richard de Eversden did not come to the gathering of nuts in the wood, according, it is said, as they were accustomed, and ought to do. But they themselves say and declare that they were never accustomed to engage in the labour of gathering nuts, neither ought they to be required to do so; and concerning this matter they themselves think, or represent, it is beyond the extent and custom of the Manor of Wynslow, according to the record, and they fix a day for examining the record at St. Albans' eight days from that day."

"John Boveton, John Mold, Walter Lamb, John Watekyns, William Hobbes, John Mayn and William Lamb were absent by their own account from the gathering of nuts, and it was proved at the previous holding of the court that they knew what they ought to do in this labour, therefore they were fined xivd."

"John Adam and Rad Adam, dwelling at Swanbourne, Will Adam and Alexander, son of Will Adam, are "nativi" of Horlewode, and have long stayed outside the dominion of the lord of the Manor without leave, therefore the order is to take them as fugitives, etc."

"Thomas Pieres and John Martyn who made a disturbance in the court by chattering, were each fined iiid."

5th year of Henry VI, (1431-2). The Homage (or Jury) present that John Ostage owes a sixth (part ?) and is proved to be a defaulter, "ideo ipse in misericordia." In misericordia, or amerced, the pecuniary punishment of an offender against the lord in his court, such an offender was said to be " in misericordia."

In the same manner they say that Richard Harry and Walter Harry, from Swanbourne, Thomas Day and William his son are fugitives, or deserters, from the same place, therefore, etc.

The lord has allowed to Randolph Eyre, six half-acres of land, with one laye, adjacent to Swine-hill, and reaching down to the Mill of Greneburgh, * * in Villeinage, etc, to hold the same for himself and his own, even to the end of the years nearest, or following the fulfilment of tenure, or contract, in Villeinage, at the will of the lord, he paying annually a sixth, and gives to the lord as a fine a young fowl, (i caponem).

A command was given to Robert Jauyn, of the well fortified [Hall or] Manor of Byggyng, that he should despoil Galfridus Kyng, son of Radulfi Kyng, of all his goods and chattels, wherever the same might be, either within or about the house, and dispose of the same to his satisfaction.

Alice Wyght, of Greneburgh, made a certain annual payment of iiis. to the said Galfridus, for an enclosed field called Colettisclose,

and whenever Galfridus was called on for an explanation, he failed to make payment to the lord of the money so received, wherefore the command was given to the said Robert that he might despoil the said Galfridus from day to day, and all the distrained goods sold, so that all payments in arrears might be made, and full satisfaction given to the said Alice.

There are many entries of a similar kind, showing that the bulk of the people were still in a state of Villeinage.

The subjection of Winslow to St. Alban's Abbey.

"The Gesta Abbatum Monasterii Sancti Albani," or Records kept by the Monks of the Abbey of St. Alban's written in Latin, and extending over a long period of years, contain many interesting entries relating to the Manor of *Wyneslawe.*

In the time of William, the 22nd Abbot, A.D. 1214-35, (during the wars of the Barons), the estates of the Abbot are stated to have been most grievously robbed and pillaged "by that most tyrannical of the sons of men, King John." "At *Wyneslawe* the Abbot lost seven horses, and in cows, sheep, geese, eggs and poultry, to the value of ten marks, (the mark was 13 4, it was only money of account, not a coin, and then represented about £8 of our present money).

A.D. 1235-60: a plaint was made by the Abbot of Westminster against John, 23rd Abbot of St. Albans, for seizing his cattle at his manor of Aldenham, Herts. Among the numerous possessions of the Abbot of St. Albans, we find mention that "Offa, King of the Angles, dedicated to God and St. Alban the lands at *Wyneshlauia*" ; and "Egelwinus, surnamed the Swarte or Black, ["Suerta Niger"], dedicated Greneburga.

About A.D. 1275-80, in the time of Roger, the 24th Abbot, we find a report of an action at Law, which has an important reference to Winslow, from the fact that it gives us direct proof that there was a Vicar here previous to the erection of the present Church. "The Church at Turville, in Bucks, had long been in possession of the Abbey of St. Albans; and about this time, the Abbot, having neglected to send a proctor to the Bishop of Lincoln's synod at Aylesbury, the officers of the Bishop's Court took possession of Turville by direction, and declared it to be sequestered. The Abbot requested the Vicar of Wycombe, who was dean of the synod, to desire of the sequestrators to withdraw, and he would make satisfaction for his error. The dean contemned the request and would not comply. The Abbot then wrote to the Vicars of Wynslow and of Horwode (Jonanni, et Roberto, de Wynslow, et Horewode), that they should declare the dean excommunicated for his disobedience. The Vicars obeyed, and thereupon John De Luca, the official of Buckingham, issued a mandate to the Vicars of Hughendon and Medmenham, that

they should publicly pronounce in the said Church of Wycombe, that the said excommunication was null and void, and declare that the Vicars of Wynslow and of Horwode had no jurisdiction against the dean, either ordinary or delegate, and he commenced a suit against them for an unjust excommunication. The Vicars appealed to the Court of Arches in which the sentence of the official was annulled and the sequestration taken off, but not until the Vicars had obtained a prohibition from the King.

The following case which also occurred under the rule of Roger, the 24th Abbot, about 1280, shows the state of bondage in which many of the tenants of the Abbot were then kept. One, William Merdun, tenant of the Abbey, commenced a suit at law against the Abbot, for having, by his servants, seized his three oxen and four horses, and imprisoned his body unlawfully.

The Abbot answered that "William" was a "Villanus" or bond servant, and had not performed the services due and incumbent upon him. At the trial "William" failed to prove that he was a free man, and so the Abbot seized his land and placed another tenant therein.

Charter of Liberties, as exemplified by the Rolls of the Exchequer, allowed to the Abbot of St. Albans by King Edward I, 1290-1.

In the great Roll of the 19th year of King Edward, son of King Henry, for the Counties of Beds and Bucks, among other things mentioned as granted to the Abbot and Monks of St. Albans is a sum of 40 shillings, then exacted from "Villa de Wincelowe cum Parva Horewode et Schiptone."

In another paragraph which appears to have become somewhat intermixed with the above, we find a sum of 4s.6d as being paid for the village of "Wincelawe," and twenty pence for "Horewode" and reference is made of a sum due from William Bagge, and half a mark each from William Adam, William Schiptone, and Osbert the Carter, all of Winslow.

A.D. 1302-8: in the time of John, the 26th Abbot, a writ was issued to the Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, prohibiting him from encroaching upon the liberties of the Abbot of St. Albans with respect to the Manor of "Wynselowe, Grenebury, Siptone, Horwode, et Aston."

Hugo, the 27th Abbot, who died 1326, is stated to have been a man that was very little feared, and less beloved. He was reckoned a very handsome man, and he had no small tincture of vanity and affectation, which he gratified in great feasts and entertainments, given to the gentry, and especially to the ladies of the neighbourhood; the resort of which last was greater than decency allowed, or his dignity required. For the better maintenance of his splendour and show, he hit on the expedient of letting long leases, and taking a good sum in hand for so doing. Among the many leases named we find—

"The Manor of Wynslow, with the Market, Rents, and a Mill for 100 Marks, yearly rent, and 100 Marks in hand. He also gave away wood and timber from the Chace at Horwode.

Upon the appointment of Richard Wallingford, the 28th Abbot, A.D. 1326, he charged certain Officers of the Abbey, including William de Wynslowe, "Coquinarius," or clerk of the kitchen, with neglect and obstinate refusal to account for certain fees which had been granted by the Clergy in convocation during the vacancy, on the death of Abbot Hugo, and therefore for their neglect to hand over these fees to the new Abbot, in spite of frequent admonitions, he declared them deposed from their offices. These officers appear, after having undergone some severe penance and probably having made due restitution, to have been reinstated, and we trust that William of Wynslowe afterwards proved a credit to the name he bore.

In the time of Hugh, 27th Abbot, A.D. 1314, there is a record of proceedings against Robert de Lymbury of St. Albans for refusing to grind his corn at the Abbot's Mill, (molendina), keeping a hand mill in his own house, and resisting the Abbot's bailiff. The jury gave a verdict against Robert de Lymbury, and he was ordered to pay 100 shillings damages to the Abbot.

In the time of Richard, 28th Abbot, A.D. 1326-65, we find mention of thirteen claims being made to right of using hand mills as being enjoyed from of old; one of the claimants being "Ricardus de Wynslowe, pro tenemento Johannes Baldewyne." The answer to such claims is not recorded, but this obligation to use the lord's mill was a cause of special dissatisfaction, and so were the tolls which the tenants had to pay at the lord's market.

In the time of Michael, 29th Abbot, A.D. 1335-49, we find a record of a trial as to the liability of the Abbot to render aid for the conferring knighthood on the King's eldest son in respect to the Manors of "Wynslowe et Greneburgh in Comitatu Bukynghamiae". The sum of £4 for two knights' fees appears to have been demanded for these Manors. The Abbot disputed it, and an Inquisition was held, and the Abbot's claim to exemption maintained. A curious question seems to have arisen with respect to the names, and a writ was issued, enjoining that a jury should be empanelled to make inquisition as to the identity of "Grenesburg" and "Grenesborowe". During the trial, evidence seems to have been given that "Wynselowe, Grenesburgh, et Byggyng" had been in possession of the Abbots from time immemorial "a tempore quo non extat memoria."

The Abbot pleaded that he was not bound to pay, nor had it ever been the custom to pay, anything towards the knighting of the first-born son of the king, or for the marrying of the first-born daughter, on account of his Manors of Wynselowe et Greneburgh.

"It is pleaded before the Barons of the Exchequer at

Westminster, on the 15th day after Easter, in the 20th (?) year of King Edward the III, after the Conquest. * * The aforesaid Abbot comes to this Court, and through Robert de Skeydone, his Attorney, complains that he himself had been severely taxed through the Sheriff of Bucks, [Vicecomes], for 100 shillings levied from him for an aid to the King, and applied to the Knighting of his eldest son, in the year concluding with the 20th of his reign, to wit, on the 10th day of the month immediately after the Feast of the Nativity of the Holy Mary, on account of his lands and buildings in Wynselowe et Grenesburgh ; and this was done unjustly, because he alleges that he himself in the aforesaid 20th year, held, and at the present time holds, and his predecessors have held from time immemorial, all the lands and buildings in the aforesaid Villages as a free, pure, and perpetual charity, without rendering any service, military or otherwise, and up to that time unmolested and freed from any military or secular service whatsoever. * * "

The Jury who were empanelled to enquire as to the identity of Grenesbury, Grenesborowe, and Grenesburgh, whether they were one and the same Village, or different Villages, and if Biggyng is a part of the Village of Grenesborowe, and whether the Abbot of St. Albans. and his predecessors from time immemorial, have held the Manors of Biggyng, Grenesborowe, and Wyneslowe as a free, pure, and perpetual charity. "They affirm, and on their oath say,—That these Manors are so held, and that Grenesborowe and Grenesbury are one and the same village, and not different, and that Biggyng is part of the Village of Grenesborowe."

In the reign of Edward III, during the time of Thomas de la Mare the 30th Abbot, the tithes of Wynslow which had always belonged to the Almoner of the Abbey, were now assigned by the Abbot, to the Priory at Redburn.

Among the accounts of Rents, etc., we find mention—"Eccl de Wynslow, quae valet cum Capella, £18 os. od."

In the time of Thomas, 30th Abbot, A.D. 1349-96, mention is made of the loss of several rents, rights, and possessions, which are attributed to the said Abbot Thomas, among which is an annual loss of venison from the Chace of *Wadone*. (This right appears to have been recovered).

"Six does—that is to say, three does at the Feast of the Holy Cross in the Autumn, and three does at the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin, together with other liberties. which were due from the Lords of the Chace of Wadone." Other possessions lost through the agency of Abbot Thomas, a tenement with land known as "Blackette," once belonging to Johannes Wynslowe, one of the Monks of St. Albans. At this time, an entry in the Records states that one, Thomas de Horwode was Vicar, "Clerico," of Horwode, and held a tenement with half

a *mark* of land there.

Among the numerous legal contests entered into by Abbot Thomas de la Mare, we find the following —A D. 1353, a charge was made by Nicholas Tybbesone, alias Mannyng, against the Abbot of St. Albans, for an assault. The Abbot alleged that the plaintiff was a born bondman of his, and not entitled to an answer. This, having been proved, the plaintiff was amerced for making a false charge.

A.D. 1353, Johanni de Wynselowe charged the Abbot of St. Albans with illegal seizure of his cattle at Herpesfield. The Abbot alleged that the plaintiff was his Villein, and not entitled to an answer, and so the plaintiff got no redress, but was amerced for making a false charge.

In 1381, there was a great Insurrection by the Commons of England, and the serfs and tenants of the Abbot of St. Albans appear to have taken advantage of it to extort certain Charters and Deeds from the Abbot and Convent, containing many liberties and franchises which they did not previously possess. "Concerning the Charter of Liberties, granted on behalf of the bondmen [Villeins], but obtained by violent means. They came together in the days of the month of March and the following month. All the natives of the Villages belonging to or round about the Monastery * * * "From Wyncelowe and Grenebourgh on the 17th June, and from Horewode and Shiptone, under 20th June, and they obtained Charters such as were never before held by bondmen * * * These Charters having been obtained from us and our people by force and sheer roguery."

When the Insurrection was quelled, a statute was made revoking all charters and liberties extorted, and all those aggrieved in such respects were directed to petition for redress which was but poor satisfaction ; many of the most active in this affair were executed at Hertford, and all the tenants of the Abbey were again compelled to perform their accustomed service.

Another entry in the Abbey accounts at this period, 1396, states there was received "From Wynslow in land rents and divers other matters £23 6s. od. ; ditto by the profits of Cattle etc £2 18s. 4d. The Vicarage of Wynslow was taxed at 5 marcs, Greneburgh taxed at 4 marcs. Horwode, formerly a chapel of Wynslow taxed at 3 marcs ; Aston, formerly a chapel of Wynslow, 5 marcs.

A.D. 1396—1401. It is stated of Abbot John Moote.—"The place also for the storing of the tithes of the Chamberlain at Wynselowe, he bought back for 18 marks, which he paid for the release of the same, the Grange in that Manor having been demised to one Richard Martyn, for an annual rent of twelve pence. In which place also he built a very good Grange, and strengthened it with strong earthen walls, from whence he afterwards sold [or distributed] his tithes at a better price."

In 1376 we find an entry that William de Wynselowe, Prior of Hertford attended with others, in the Chapter House at St. Albans, to elect a new Abbot; other mention is also made of him in 1401.

This same Abbot John Moote, is said to have rebuilt from the foundation the Chancel of the Parish Church of Grenebury, between the years 1396-1401.

John of Wheathampstead, the 33rd Abbot, who held his office from 1420 to 1440, is said to have built two new barns and one pigeon house at the Grange at Wynslow.

Will proved at the Manor Court of Winslow, A.D. 1431.

The Will of John Watts, proved in the presence of Robert Ounesby, Steward and Commissary of this part, (district). The course, (substance) of which follows in these words.

"In the name of God, Amen. I, John Watts, of sound mind, in the year of our Lord, 1427, set forth my Will, after this manner.

First, I commit my soul to God, and my body to be buried in the Graveyard of St. John the Baptist, of Greneburgh.

Item. To the Monks of St. Alban's, xii pence.
Item. To the Vicar of Greneburgh, xii pence.
Item. To the Clerk of the same Church, iv pence.
Item. For the iv Lamps of the same Church, half a quarter of malt.
Item. To the Church of Wynge, xii pence.
Item. To Agnes Lavy, one brazen pottle jar, a chest, one coverlet, and one apparel of linen.
Item. To Margery Lavy, one brazen pottle jar and chest.
Item. To the Brothers of Aylesbury, xii pence.
Item. To William Child, my godson, one bushel of malt.

And as to the residue of my goods not bequeathed, I appoint John Geffes, my Executor, that he himself may dispose of my goods, with the assistance of John Boueton, in the best manner they may know of, to please God for my soul."

(Here the Will is executed in legal form).

[*Note.* The Brothers of Aylesbury mentioned in this Will, belonged to the Monastery of the Grey, or Franciscan Friars there, founded in the reign of Richard II, or the latter years of Edward III.]

About this time we also find an interesting entry relating to the Manumission of a born Bondsman, or Slave.—

On the 14th day of September, 1467, the Lord Abbot, under his letters patent, as well as his seal and Court, gave liberty to a slave from every yoke of bondage, released him, and made him a free man.

William Perkins, of Aylesbury, painter, otherwise stainer, lately the son of William Perkins, a native of Greenburgh,

belonging to the Manor, called De Bygging, lying near Wynslow in the County of Bucks, fine 3s.4d.

On the 31st day of October, in the year of our Lord, 1467, the lord Abbot set free, and made a free man of John Geffis, of Greenburgh, under his letters patent, both under the seal of the said Abbot, and the seal of his Court, and the whole of his descendants, his offspring, and those afterwards to be born, were in like manner to be free of all service.

More than a hundred years previous to this,—A.D. 1349,—we find a Radulfus Geffes, holding a cottage tenement with its belongings in Greneburgh.

It is suggested that the object of Abbot John Stoke in his frequent manumission of born bondmen or "Natives" belonging to the Abbey, was to obtain the fees upon terms of paying which the manumission was granted. In the case of William Perkyne, a "Native" of the Manor of Bygging, near Winslow, but then living at Aylesbury, and evidently a painter by trade, upon his manumission has the sum of 3s.4d. entered against his name, but in many instances at that time the serfs seem to have resisted the enforced rule of their masters, and their services were often yielded most unwillingly, and as they were entitled to certain allotments of land for cultivation for their own support, and land was then becoming more valuable, the Abbot seems often willing to get rid of a troublesome serf or servant as a bad bargain.

The Abbots of St. Alban's had been accustomed to have from the Chace of Horewode, near their estate of Wynslow, three bucks and three does at two several times, viz :—on Holy Rood Day, three fat bucks, and on the Feast of the Purification, three fat does ; but this did not prove sufficient for Abbot William Alban, for we find him about the year 1473, sending a pompous Latin letter, that he would have three fat bucks on the Feast of St. Peter, and three fat does at the Feast of the Nativity, "and these to be given to us and our successors for ever."

In 1478, Abbot William Wallingford granted to Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV, one turn, or the next presentation, of the Vicarage of "Sancti Laurentii de Wynslowe."

A.D. 1479, mention is made of a grant of venison to John Verney, Esq., from the Chase of Horwode, in the Manor of Wynslow, he making a certain return for the same.

In 1479 the Abbot granted an annuity of five pounds with a long robe, to John Barry, "Jantylman," for the release of his interest in the Manor of Biggyn, in the County of Bucks.

A.D. 1480. Thomas Sudbury the Cellarer of the Abbey of St. Albans held a Court at Wynselowe.

This "Gesta" or Record, so carefully compiled by these monkish scribes of long bygone days, contains much other information relating to the affairs of the Abbey, with which we have no immediate concern ; we will therefore leave it, and refer

to yet another venerable Latin Document that is exclusively local, being the

Court Roll of the Manor from 1509 to 1532.

The first entry in this ancient deed is to the following purport:—

"Winslowe Halimote, view of ffranc-pledge etc., holden on Thursday next, before the Feast of Pentecost,—that is to say, on the 22nd day of May, in the first year of King Henry VIII, in the time of John Albon, Cellarius.

The following names appear among the Homage at this period.—Johes Palmer, Thoma Tomlyn, Johes Aldyn, Willi Gifford, Willi Willows, Willi Thomlyn de Shipton, Thoma Glenister, Thoma Myller, Tho. Eliot, Johes Martyn, Willi Shelton, Johes Lambard, Roberto Wylliot, Roberto Pigott, Thoma Illynge, Barnardo Pitkyn, Edwardus Hollond, Johes Geffys, Walterii Kynge, Johes Holond, Jacobi Monke, Johes Stevens, etc.

Elizabeth, widow of William Robyns, gives up a grange (or barn) in the market-place of Winslow, near the pillory-ditch, ("le pilory diche"), lately in possession of William Kynge, Reve; and the Lord of the Manor grants the grange and tenement aforesaid, with all that belongs to them, to John Rows, to be held by him and his, of the Lord "in villen: per virgam," according to the custom of the Manor.

William Lane gives up three acres of land in Shipton Field, lying in half-acres at Hirsendbrigge, Shipton Crosse, Nammerslond, Water's Butt, Shardfurlonge, and Heytonford. Perhaps Nammerslond is a corruption of the very common No Man's Land, (a piece of waste land left long unenclosed and uncultivated from originally superstitious reasons).

Another instance of a holding which consisted of half-acre strips, very much like the last; seven acres lying "in campo de Shipton, in diversis parcellis," in Shipton Field, in different plots: half-an-acre by Shiptonbrigge, between the land of William Ryton and of Thomas Peers; half-an-acre at the Lowe, (apud le lowe), between the land of the said William and Thomas; half-an-acre in Roton, (elsewhere Reton); another by "Brodliteldon"—the little broad wood; another at "Eldelayen," the old leys; another at Shortebenhull, &c.; the owners of adjoining strips being specified in each case.

Here is a similar entry containing a number of other field names; it specifies, "Seven acres in Wynselowe Field, (in campo de Wynselowe), at Ryefurlonge, and other acres at Longeland End; others above Horsepole Furlonge; others above Langland; others above Sparlowe; others abutting above Tokey Hill, and others above Tokey; another half-acre abutting on Demera (Dimidin acre abutt: Demeram); another above the same furlong, (so that Demera must be the name of a "furlong"

of the ordinary kind); others by Claydon Brigge; three other half-acres above the lower Furlong; others above the Breach ("super le brech"), and others above Orwylhill, whose heriot (that is, succession duty) is one cow of the value of six shillings and eightpence.

Another heriot is an ox, of value eleven shillings, and another is a cow with a calf, of value eight shillings, ("una vacca cum vitlo pretii, viijs."), of a third for this turn ("hac vice") a cow worth six shillings.

At this Court homage was done because Thomas Ellyat is dead; who, in his last moments ("in cens in extremis"), gave up into the hands of the Lord of the Manor, by the hand of the Steward ("ballious;" bailiff), a messuage and half a virgate of land, with all that belonged to it, formerly held by John Albyn, called Thomsons, and lately by Hugh Marston, for the profit and use of Jane, the wife of the said Thomas, for the term of her life; and after the death of the said Jane, for the messuage and land aforesaid, &c., to remain in the hands of the churchwardens of Winslow ("guardianis ecclesiæ de Wynslowe"), and their successors for ever; to keep an annual obit (or commemoration festival) in the Church aforesaid, and to be left to be sold, and the proceeds thence applied to celebrate masses, and for other purposes in the church aforesaid, for the souls of the said Thomas and his parents, and of all who have died in the Faith, ("omnium fidelium defunctorum"); of which the heriot is one cow. And the lord granted the aforesaid messuage and land aforesaid, &c., &c., in accordance with the terms before set forth.

A similar grant by a dying man, William Wynge, (witnessed on the honour of worthy men), is recorded in the next entry; but the estate goes not to the Church, but to John Wynge, the son, apparently, of the deceased.

A little above is a note, among cottages and other property of "one dole of meadow" (unum dole prati); which recalls the "Doles" which one finds as a field name in other parishes.

The next Court following, was held die martis, videlicet, xxx die mensis maii, anno Henrici viij sexto (30 May, 6 Henry VIII), tempore domini Thomæ Marshall, Cellarii.

In the records of this Court, the following field names occur:—

Ankerslond. Aldeme.
Blackpit.
Grimesham. (Elsewhere Grymeshamme).
Hickeende. Hawkeslowe.
Hordwell Hill. Homeforowe.
Longeresharpe.
Nalbroken. Netherest Furlonge.
Overmedeside.
Reton.
Short Blakgrove. Snouteshake.
Woodway.
Wydfurlonge. Wykes End.

A strip of land is described as at Shipton Crosse, between the king's highway, (regia via), and the land of John Cony. The highway (alta via) also occurs, as well as the High Strete, on which some of the tenements abut.

Some of the properties are very small indeed; e.g., a 'parcel of land' (parcella terræ) is held of John Jankyn, Junior, ...which lies on the boundary of the Court-yard, lately held by William Cony; in length, seven feet, and in breadth, nineteen feet.

At a Court held on the 6th day of May, in the 8th year of Henry VIII,—Thos. Marshall, Cellarius.—It is recorded that Margareta Verney disposed of her estate unto Ricardus Wyllows; this included one windmill, ("unum molendinum ventriticum"), situate at Winslow, the consideration being "the payment of five marks of good and legal money of England, 40/- to be paid at the Feast of the Annunciation of the blessed Marie, following after the date of this Court, and 26/8 at the same Feast, immediately next following the first * * provided always that, if the aforesaid Margareta survives, who then was next of kin to the said Richard, then after the death of the said Margareta, all the aforesaid messuages, cottages, land, &c., &c., shall be sold, and the proceeds then taken, for the souls of the parents of the said Richard, and all the faithful deceased, applied in pious uses and works of charity as shall seem best.

[The family of Wyllows, or Willows, were evidently of good position in the parish during the 15th and 16th centuries. We have elsewhere mentioned that there was formerly a monumental slab in the middle of the Church, to the memory of one William Willows.]

Although the entries in this old Court Roll consist mainly of dry legal facts, yet in nearly every page we find something that serves to throw some light upon the Winslow of past days; for instance, at the Court held in the 9th year of Henry VIII, mention is made of a Messuge situate in "le Newtowne apud Wynslowe." As we have before stated, in the time of Edward III, the Court Roll mentions, not only Wynselowe, but "Nova Villa de Wynselowe," so that it seems evident that there was formerly an *old* and a *new* town.

Some of the local names used are also suggestive, as "le Bury-lond"; a cottage situate "super le Market Hill"; "Wydfurlonge"; "Dichende"; two Shops situate in "le Market Strete"; there was also a High Strete, and another spoken of as "The Strete"; we also find "le Pillorye" and "le Pillorye Diche," "le Meat Market," "Church Ende" and the "Bull Ringe."

"Richard Willows has parted with two Shops, under one roof, situated over against the Bull Ring ("sit. versus le

Bulryng") with a stable adjoining."

Again, "Richard Willows has parted with two Shops in the Market-place of Wynselowe, to John Hardynge, of Whitchurche."

At the Court held on the 20th day before the Feast of Pentecost, 9th Henry VIII, 1517, mention is again made of the New Town, Winslow, ("unam messuajam, sit. in le Newtowne apud Wynselowe.")

Another interesting entry is one connected with the since wellknown family of Gibbs, it mentions a plot of two acres of land called "Gibbes's."

Roger Haspenall surrenders a certain close, called "Cathende," at Greneburgh, and the same is granted to Richard Willows, (of Wynslowe).

Will Shrewesbyrye transfers a cottage situate at the "Churchende" to Richard Thorpe, Vicar of Greneburgh, and to his heirs.

Elizabeth Jaye surrenders into the hands of the Lord of the Manor, a piece of arable land of one acre, in this Manor and Hundred, and 25 acres, which were first received in the reign of Henry VII. And the Lord grants the same at his pleasure, to Walter Myller, and he pays a fine of viii*s.*, and yearly fine of vi*d.*, according to custom.

Juliana Willows, on her death bed, ("in extremis"), surrendered into the hands of the Lord, by his Steward, two Shops, of which one is only an open piece of ground lying in the Meat Market of Wynslowe, on the west side, and the shop of John Hogston on the east side; and the Lord has granted the same to Richard Willows.

At the Court held 28th May, 10th Henry VIII, we find—Horwood Parva: "Robert Pigott, gentleman, has been dead six years or more, who held one cottage, with one acre of land in Lyttell Horwood. * * And they say that Thomas Pigott, lawyer, ("ad legem") is his son and next heir, and of full age, who came and claimed the said messuage, &c."

"John Rows on his death bed gave up one "Grange" situate in the Market-place of Wynslowe, by the Pillory Ditch."

A cottage is given up because illegally held, situated between the holding of Roger Anngerwyn, the Chaplain, ("le Capellano"), and the holding called "The Crown" ("voc. le Crowne"), in Greneburgh.

The "Grange" is granted to John Stow and Joan his wife, "upon payment of a fine of vis.viii*d.* for this time."

Court held 6th August, 12th Henry VIII, by John Holyngworth. John Boston gives up all right and title to a messuage called the "The Crown," at Greneburgh, "and the same is granted to Barnard Pytkin, and Joan, his wife."

Court held Tuesday, 14th May, 13th Henry VIII. John Sharpe, of Fulbroke, receives a cottage, given up by Richard Thorpe, Vicar of Greneburgh, and a certain close called "Nowes," otherwise known as "the Bridge Land," was granted to the said Richard Thorpe.

"William Stevens surrenders a capital messuage in Greneburgh, and land lying in "Clot-croft," and a cottage lying between the "Cemetery" and the land of Galfred Kynge, enclosed by hedges and a ditch, etc."

George Browne, "Cleric," dies, his heir is another George Browne, ("de Fawcottys"), of the Manor Farm, or Estate, ("Biggin").

William Honer and Agnes his wife give up the whole of the dowry of the said Agnes, in all those lands which Godfree Studye (?) held at the time of their marriage * * * .

28th May, 10th Henry VIII. To this Court came Walter Palmer and surrendered into the hands of the lord, One Toft, upon which a messuage lately stood, situated between the high road and the Parish Church-yard of Wynselowe, ("cimiterii ecclesiæ parochialis.")

Wynslowe.—"Walter Palmer gives up a messuage, lately Hugh Palmer's, and a cottage, lately Richard Willow's, a cottage called Kyngsbarne, a cottage called New Shepcott, one messuage with half-a-virgate of land, lately William Smythe's and Margerie his wife, one shop in the Market Place, and one orchard called Coldam, and one close with various lands and meadows called "Alkyns," &c." [Hawkyns, or Alkyns, was the name of an old family at Shipton.]

"John Woodman surrenders into the hands of the Lord a piece of ground, whose one side on the north is contained in the length of twenty feet, and the other side is above the *torrent* ("super torrentem"), at Little Horewode."

"William Emerton holds land in Greneburgh in the furlongs called Longbroughton, Longwhet, and le Longbrache."

"Roger Anngerwyn, clerk, (probably the Chaplain before mentioned at Biggin), gave up a cottage lately John Maunderykes, in the town (villa) of Wynslowe, abutting on the King's Highway ("regia via") on the east, &c."

At this time there occurs a note respecting certain "Villeins" or "Nativi domini" who had left the manor without consent of the Lord, viz :—"Walterus Elyott, apud Northampton ; Johannes et Isabella, filii eius, apud Greneburgh, sunt nativi domini."

We also find a casual reference to a water mill. "Walter Palmer held land between the land lately John Brayne's, and the land lately Will Perkyn's by the Water Myll." There is also mention of two acres of land at "Mylhill," Greneburgh."

"Wynslowe.—One Shop in the Meat Market, between the

shop lately William Kynge's of Swanborne, and the King's Highway on every side: and contains in length xii feet, and in breadth xii feet; also a cottage with land adjoining, lately John Ashwells, called "Hobbesborne Smythe," (Smithy)."

"John Long surrenders into the hands of the Lord by the hand of the Steward there, a messuage and virgate of land &c. to the occupation and use of Henry Woodfall, clerk and Vicar of Lytil Horwode and his heirs, etc."

[*Note.*—Browne Willis does not give this name in his list of Vicars of Little Horwood].

"Richard Edmondes, in full court, surrenders into the hands of the Lord, by the hand of the Steward there, two acres of land in the fields of Wynslowe; of which one acre lies in Lowfurlonge, between the land of Alice Legat and the land of Thomas Davye: and the other acre lies at Berryhegge, between the land of Thos. Palmer and Thos. Thomelyn. And the Lord grants the said lands, with the appurtenances, to William Shelton and Marion his wife, to hold to him and his [heirs] of the Lord in Villeinage, at the will of the Lord, according to the custom of the Manor, by service &c, at the annual rent of xi*d.*"

Probably the most notable among the many Lords of the Manor, was Cardinal Wolsey, who was Abbot of St. Albans 1521-30. The following entry in the Manor Roll at that time sets forth his connection and authority over the Manor:—

"Wynselowe.—View of frank-pledge with Court held there on Tuesday next, before the Feast of Pentecost, in the 17th year of King Henry VIII, in the time of Lord Thomas Cardinal, Archbishop of York, and Commendatory of the exempt Monastery of St. Albans.

"The Jurors present that they give to the lord the King for common fine (to this day certain) 48s.8d.

"It was ordained and agreed by the lord's steward and the whole of the homage, that Robt. Willyott and John Couper shall have full authority and power to take all and singular surrenders lying in the outlying parts of the [Manor] in the absence of the bailiff, jointly and severally, in the presence of two tenants, or two honest men; and these surrenders thus taken by them shall be certified at the next general Court.

"It was presented by the Jurors that there should be seized into the hands of the lord a cottage with an acre of land adjoining (at Little Horwode), because a certain Thomas Couper, deceased, held and occupied the said cottage all his life, without leave or licence of the lord."

At a Court of the Manor held on Monday, the 20th after All Saints' Day, ("Anno Regis, Henrici VIII, xvii, [1525]"), is an entry stating that Robert Williot, forester, is charged with cutting and selling oak timber without leave.

"At this Court, an enquiry was held about the waste and

destruction of the thicket and underwood of the lord of this Manor, lying and being within the parish of Lytil-horwood, in com. Buck, &c. The Homage say, on oath, that a certain Robert Willyot, keeper of the lord's woods there, made the waste and destruction in the said woods, viz:—by felling and selling *large* trees, called oaks, without leave of the lord, in various portions of the wood called Rowden in Lytil-horwood aforesaid, as is shown by instances; viz:—in the portion of the wood called Rowden, he felled and sold 150 oaks, each of the value of xij pence; and in the same portion of the wood 150 oaks, each of the value of viii*d*. And the whole waste in the said portion amounts to the value of xii*l*.x*s*..

"Also they [the Homage] say that the said Robert Willyott made waste in another portion of the wood called Norburie Coppice, he felled and sold there 71 oaks, each valued at xij pence; and in the same portion of the wood 71 oaks, each valued at viij pence. And the waste in the same portion amounts to v*l*.xviii*s*.

"Also they say that all and each of the aforesaid cases of waste took place in the time of the said Robert Willyott, keeper of the said woods during the space of xii years last past. To sum up, he must answer to the lord for all the waste and destruction of the woods & underwood aforesaid, according to form of law, etc.

"Also it is presented before the Court that Thomas Glenister has caused certain damage to the lord with his sheep, and he is ordered to make it good under a penalty of xi pence."

Manumission of William Thomlyns and Stephen Thomlyns.

At a Court of the Manor held in the 20th year of King Henry VIII, [1528], we find the recital of an official Document, dated A.D. 1444, relating to the Manumission of William Thomlyns and Stephen Thomlyns, "Nativi" of the Manor of Wynslowe. We have previously briefly alluded to the Manumission of two "serfs" belonging to the parish of Granborough, but as the subject is one of considerable interest, it may not be amiss to give the text of this old Deed in full, showing, as it does, that the former inhabitants of Winslow once bore the yoke of servitude, Villeinage, and bondage.

The Thomlyn, or Tomlyn, family appear to have occupied a superior social position in the Manor. A Henry Thomlyn was instituted Vicar of Winslow in 1451; another Henry Tomlyn held land at Greneburgh in 1509; a William Tomlyn of Shipton is mentioned in the Manor Roll in 1519; and William Tomlyn, Thomas Tomlyn of Greneborowe, and John Thomlyn of Wynselowe, appear as Jurors in the years 1512, 1516. In 1606 the

Living of Winslow was granted by King James I, to Sir John Fortescue and Richard Tomlyne. In 1610 the names of William Thomlyn of Winslow, and Robert Thomlyn of Shipton, appear upon the Manor Roll. And upon the Sanctus Bell, cast in 1611, the name of T. Tomlin appears as one of the donors.

"Know all men by these presents that we, John, Abbot of the Exempt Monastery of St Alban and of the Convent of the same place, by unanimous consent and will for ourselves and our succesors, do manumit, and from every yoke of servitude, villeinage, or bondage, do deliver and make free our well-beloved in Christ, William Thomlyns, alias William Peris, alias William Adam, senr., and Stephen Thomlyns, alias Stephen Perys, alias Stephen Adam, our "Nativi" of our Manor of Wynslowe in co. Bucks, with all and every their issues and families now born or hereafter to be born, so that to whatever parts of the world they shall go, they may enjoy full, absolute and perpetual freedom: and any of them may enjoy it by themselves for ever, and they may live and remain without being re-claimed by us and our successors whomsoever. So that neither we, the aforesaid Abbot and Convent, nor our successors, nor anyone through us or in our name shall be able to exact, demand, or lay claim to in any way whatever hereafter, any [right?] or claim of servitude in the aforesaid William and Stephen, with all their issues and families now born or hereafter to be born, by reason of any villeinage or bondage. But from every demand, exaction or claim in law of servitude in the aforesaid William and Stephen, with all and every, their issues and families born or to be born, we, by this present writing are excluded for ever. In witness whereof we have sealed as well with the seal of us, the aforesaid John the Abbot, as with the common seal of the said Abbey and Convent. Dated at the Monastery of St. Albans, in our chief house, in the year 1444, and in the 23rd year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth, after the conquest of England, viz:—on the 19th day of January, in the year aforesaid."

Browne Willis, in his "History of Buckingham," page 360, says—"Now as Tenements were occupied by people born and bred in the Village they were called *Villani*. And since *Nativi* and *Servi*, or Bondsmen, being such as our husbandmen, yeomen, or farmers are now. And the Cottages were held by what the Saxons called *Bordarii*,—that is persons, who like our cottagers, held little or no land; or they might be called *Bordarii* because they had their meat where they worked. However, these Bordarii were in every respect—except their lives—at the will of their several Lords, who, being weary of maintaining such numerous lazy families as divers of them grew to be, became in process of time willing to manumit or make them free, or suffer them to hold their lands under such rents and services as the Lords thought fit to impose, which, being entered on their Court Rolls

they made afterwards but little use of their authority over them."

In the case of this Thomlyn family, the Manumission would seem from the terms used, ("well-beloved in Christ"), to have been that of a favour or compliment,—doubtless upon payment of fees or other consideration.

The last Court mentioned in *this* Manor Roll was held on the 23rd day of May, 1532, at which time Robert Blakeney was the Steward, or Cellarius ; and the following old names comprised the Homage—"John Palmer, William Shelton, William Tomlyn, Thomas Elyott, Robert Edmunds, Robert Wilyott, Thomas Tomlyn, Edward Holond, John Holond, Thomas Illynge, Robert Capenhurst, Henry Stevens, etc."

The names of these families are constantly to be found in connection with the three parishes comprising the Manor. The most familiar name yet surviving being that of Illing of Little Horwood, where they appear to have been settled for the last four centuries. They are mentioned in this Manor Roll in 1509 as holding property there. A William Illing was Bailiff of the Borough town of Buckingham in the years 1561, 1563, 1571, 1578, and 1585 ; and other members of the family subsequently held that office, similar to that of Mayor of the present day.

Another well-known name was that of Williatt, also of Little Horwood. As we have shown, the name of Robert Williatt appears as one of the Jurors at a Manor Court held in 1509. They seem generally to have been a prosperous race of farmers, occupying the same lands, one generation after another for centuries, and fondly clinging to the place of their birth. For at least two hundred years, without a break, there appears to have been at least one member of the family, bearing the name of *Newman* Williat, living in the adjoining parish of Great Horwood ; this peculiar christian name appearing to have been derived from some female member of the family of Newman, (probably of Swanbourne), who having inter-married with that of Williatt, thus sought to perpetuate her own maiden name. The first entry relating to this family in Little Horwood Church Register, (which commences in 1561), is as follows—"Robert Williatt, ye sonne of Robert Williatt, was christened ye 2nd day May, 1572." Branches of the family appear to have spread into the surrounding district, for we find a Newman Williatt was chosen Bailiff of Buckingham in 1785, 1790, and 1804.

An entry in the Court Roll of the Manor of Great Horwood, under date of 17th April, 1823, states—"We present the death of Mr. Robert Williatt, who died since the last Court, seized of one or more Copyhold Estates, etc."

There are also entries of the death of Edward Williatt in 1825, and George Williatt in 1828, who appear to have been the last direct male descendants of this ancient family.

The families of Hollond, Caponhurst, and Stevens, are historic

in the parish of Granborough, but all their descendants are now extinct there ; the other names mentioned were connected with Winslow, of whom occasional reference will be found in these pages.

The parish of Aston Abbots, part of the possessions or ancient demesnes of the Abbey of St. Albans, was from an early period considered to be part of this Manor, and its Church formed one of the Chapels connected with Winslow. At the time of the Domesday Survey it was so included, and the Abbot of St. Albans was then mentioned as being possessed of *Easton*. It is also mentioned in 1260 as a Chapel of Ease to Winslow. The estate continued in possession of the Abbey until the general Dissolution of Monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII.

Aston House was a country seat of the Abbots, and was so occasionally occupied by them ; it being nearer to St. Albans than Winslow. The Church of St. James is an ancient structure, containing traces of Norman architecture, of an earlier date than the Mother Church of Winslow. For a long time previous to the Dissolution, Aston Abbots was deemed a distinct Manor, and is only mentioned here because of its former connection with this parish.

Although there were many evils and scandals connected with these Abbeys and Religious Houses, yet we are often too apt to forget the many services rendered by the Monks to the community. To them we owe the preservation of the Bible, which they copied and illuminated with artistic skill and care. They were the scribes and historians of the age, and many of the facts and incidents mentioned in this present work we owe to their learned labours. They were also the teachers of the young ; and more than five hundred years since there appears to have been a "School of the Monks" at Winslow. We are also indebted to them for the establishment of the Weekly Market and Fairs. Their ability and skill in architecture is shown in the yet remaining noble pile of buildings once forming part of St. Alban's Abbey. To them we are doubtless indebted for our Parish Church ; and we find it upon record how Abbot John de la Moote rebuilt the chancel at Grandborough, between the years 1396 and 1401. These Abbeys were, in many instances, very rich, yet a considerable part of their income was most worthily used for the relief of the poor, sick and aged, for no Poor Laws were then in existence, nor were they required, but when the Monasteries were Dissolved, a vast number of infirm and unemployed persons were left without support, and so the now familiar institution of a Poor Law followed.

There appears to have been about twenty of these religious houses in Buckinghamshire, of which those situate in this immediate locality were "Hogshaw Priory," and "Snellshall Priory" in Whaddon parish.

We are now approaching the period of the Dissolution of this ancient foundation, when the monks were dispersed and their immense estates confiscated under the garb of religion, by that royal plunderer, King Henry VIII, who disestablished and disendowed these religious houses without compunction, and without mercy.

In the general struggle of the nobles and gentry to obtain a share out of the spoils of the Church, of course this Manor of Winslow was not overlooked.

We find that the Manor of Biggin, with that of Winslow, Shipton, Greneborough and Little Horwood, were leased in the 31st year of Henry VIII, to one of his royal minions, Richard Breame, Esq., Yeoman of the household, and Margaret his wife, during their lives and to the longest liver of them. This lease is described as being of the yearly value of £52 4s. 7d. The Parsonages of Winslow, Greneborough, and Little Horwood were further valued at £29 7s. 8d. The said lessees paid a yearly reserved rent of £16 os. 1d. The Commissioners under Philip and Mary, report that they find the Manor of Biggin to be granted to Benedict Lee, Esq., by letters patent, dated June 28th, in the first year of King Edward VI, for twenty-one years after the expiration of the former lease, and that the said Margaret Breame was then living, and that the said Parsonages had been granted to the Clergy by an Act of Parliament. Thus the Manor of Winslow passed away into secular hands, after having formed part of the possessions of the Abbey of St. Albans for some 750 years.

The Crown appears to have retained possession of the freehold until 1599, when Queen Elizabeth sold it to John Fortescue of Salden House, Mursley, for the sum of £2,329 7s. 1d. A few years previous to this the Queen had granted him the same on a lease for 21 years, in consideration of a fine of £6 13s. 4d., and an annual rent of £1 13s. 4d.

In 1619 the Manor was sold to Sir George Villiers, Marquis of Buckingham. In 1697 it was purchased under an Act of Parliament, giving power to the Mortgagee, Nicholas Goodwyn, Esq , to sell it, the purchaser being William Lowndes, Esq., of Winslow, in whose family it still continues.

After the Manor came into the possession of Sir John Fortescue, Knight, we fear that the copyhold tenants did not find their position at all improved, for they soon began to show a feeling of dissatisfaction, of which we have evidence in a Presentment made by the Jury at a Court holden for the Manor on the 21st day of July, 1600.

Next we have a Letter of Attorney, to settle their disputes with the Lord of the Manor about fines, bearing date the 17th December, 1603, and another similar document dated the 23rd January, 1604.

These last two Deeds are interesting, as showing how few persons were then able to write, for among the many names attached, in nearly every instance, some peculiar distinguishing *mark* is made in lieu of signature.

These were followed by an Indenture and Schedule relating to the same subject, dated 9th February, 1610.

Next an Action at Law in the Court of Chancery, between Sir Francis Fortescue, of Salden, and Peter Fyge, of Winslow, gentlemen, and 155 other Copyhold tenants of the Manor of Winslow; "some time parcell of the possessions of the late dissolved Monasterie of St. Alban, in the County of Hartford."

This Action at Law seems to have settled the questions in dispute, as we find them fully set forth in "an Exemplification at the request of Peter Fyge, gent., and others," dated 30th Nov. 1613.

Court of Survey of Sir John Fortescue.

One of the first legal acts of Sir John Fortescue, after acquiring the Manor, was to hold a Court of Survey at Winslow, in 1600, at which the most searching enquiry was made respecting the extent and bounds of the Manor; its woods, quarries, mines, fisheries, commons, farms, advowsons, markets, fairs, tolls, rents, fines, heriots, number of Copyhold Tenants etc. in the said Manor of Winslowe, with its members, Shipton, Greneborowe, and Little Horwood.

Twenty-eight definite questions were put to the Jury in writing, and from their replies we gather these particulars.—

"The Presentment made by the Tenants and Homages of the Manor of Winslowe, herein undernamed, of all those liberties, bounds, precincts, rents, fines, tolls, heriots and other things, pertaining and belonging to the said Manor, according to the Articles to them delivered in writing at a Courte holdon at the said Manor of Winslowe, the one-and-twentieth day of July, Anno Dom. 1600, by the Steward and Commissioners of the Right Honorable Sir John Fortescue, Knight, one of Her Ma'ties most Honorable Privie Counsell, etc.

"Declared on the eighteenth day of Decemb., in the three-and-fortieth yeare of the reigne of our Soveraine Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, ffrance and Ireland, defender of the faith, and so forth.

"Upon the Oaths of Robt. Williatt, Robt. Lownes, Henry Wendover, John Jackson, John Shelton, William Spooner als. Lunt, Thomas Robinson, Thomas Bowden, Thomas Grant als. Miller, Thomas Ellyott, Richard Stanton, Robert Stevens, John Grace, Benedict Holland, Thomas Montague, Richard Grace, Thomas Rutland, John Williatt, John Illing, George Addams, John Hawkins, and Thomas Curtis.

"Imprimis.—We say that every Tenant of this Manor of

Winslowe doth hold all his lands and tenements by the rodd, and copys of Court Roll, in fee simple or fee tayle, to him and his heirs, and he may surrender or alienate his landes etc., upon paying fine, and taking copies out of the Court, and bringing in the surrender within twelve months and a day after the surrender made.

"If a Copyholder of inheritance doth permit or suffer any waste * * or fell or sell any timber tree off his copyhold, he doth not forfeit his copyhold to the Lord, for that copyhold tenants of inheritance have used time without memory of man to the contrary, to fell and sell timber off their copyhold lands, and to pull down, remove, and alter their copyhold houses at their own will and pleasure, without leafe or license of the Lord, or his officers. But if any tenant for years or for life of any copyhold, do permit or willingly suffer to have done, any waste or spoil, in and upon any copyhold houses or landes, then the said tenant for years or for life, doth forfeit his estate to him that hath the reversion of the said copyhold estate, but not to the Lord of the Manor.

"Likewise, if any copyhold tenant of inheritance have females for his heirs, and die seized, without surrender, all the females shall inherit equally.

"We confess that we do not knów which is the principal Tenement or Capital Mansion House of this Manor, neither doe wee know any demesne belonging to the said Manor, other than copyhold lands which are holden, and have been holden by copy of Court Roll of the said Manor; and by copyhold of inheritance time without memory of men to the contrarie, as wee take it.

"We know of none that hold any estate of this Manor by indenture for life, or lives, or term of years from the Lord, but only Peter Ffige, who holdeth the Mote Hall in Winselowe.

"By custom of the said Manor everie copyholder may lawfully demise and lease his copyhold estate, or any part thereof for three years, and so for three years immediately following another, and so for the full terme of twenty and one years, and that without license of the Lord or his Steward.

"There are in Greneborowe certain layes which are possesst free of fee, and certain copyhold landes that are laid out by general consent of the tenants, for the pasture of their cattell, but are not waste ground, (but for any manner of comon, moor, or heath, or waste belonging to the said Manor, we know not); but there is a parcell of wood ground, called Abbot's Wood, in this Manor, in the which wood grounds the tenants of Little Horwood enter common—and in the Manor of Great Horwood, and in Nash, and in the Chase, called Whaddon Chase, and in Newnton, and in the Brook End of Shenley."

"We take it that the Abbot's Wood is a parcell of the Chase,

called Whaddon Chase; and there is a warren of conyes within the comon of Little Horwood, called Shucklow, within the said Manor.

"Whereas the tenants of Little Horwood have certain closes enclosed aforetime, taken out of the east field, sometime lying open at the top of the field between the Abbot's Wood and Mursley Field, which is part and parcell of several yard lands, both free and copyhold, for the particular names thereof we refer you to the Terrier booke of Little Horwood; and the rents, services and herriotts thereof are included in the generall rents and services of their whole tenancies.

"The comoners who comon within the said wood, called the Abbot's Wood, have no certain rate or stint for number of their cattell, there oncomoning; but only by the Swaynmote Court, the comoners have been used to be rated and stinted for the number of their cattell, so commoned in the wood called Abbot's Wood, * * * as in the Terrier book of Little Horwood so appeareth.

"The Lord of this Manor himself hath not any manner of comon in any part of this Manor of his own right, but his accustomed rents, heriotts, and services at the court, to our knowledge.

"There is a ffayre holden every yeare at Winslowe, on the ffeast of St. Laurence his day, and a weekly markett on Thursday, and the Lord of the Manor, or his assign is clerk of the said markett of the Manor of Winslowe and liberties. And that all manner of wayfes and strays, and fellons goods, and the tolls of the ffayres and marketts doe belong to the Lord, or his assigns—as we take it.

"There is a Malt Mill within the said Manor, now holden of the Lord by copy of Court Roll, but we doe not know of any suit or service the tenants of this Manor have been bound to do for the said mill.

"There is yearly paid to the Lord of this Manor, (as by the Bayliffs bookes doth appear), out of North Marstone 13s.2d., and out of Oving 15s.4d. for forraine rents; but of what nature of rents the same bee, or for what the rents of the same are paid, we know not.

"There are four ridges lying in the fields of Greneborow, used and imployed to the relief of the Church as we have heard. Likewise in Little Horwood ffeilds there are three ridges used and imployed to the relief of the Church by the Churchwardens and Feoffees for their time. For the one of them they pay a penny a year to Robert Ward for rent, and for the other two they think they are part of the tenements of John Illing and John Hawkins.

"And they have heard it reported, that in Winslowe feilds is one land, whereof there are Feoffees, namely,—Henry Wendover, Thomas Grant the elder, with others. Likewise there is in

Winslowe, one house, whereof are Feoffees the following—Peter Ffyge, Thomas Grant, Thomas Robinson, John Shelton, John Glenister, and Hugh Stevens,

"Alsoe there are two cottages given by Katherine Baily towards the reliefe of the poore of Winslowe whereof are Feoffees, John Robinson, William Lownds, Walter Grant, and Thomas Ffyge. For all these of Winslowe there are rents paid to the Lord, and suit done at the Court by the Feoffees."

Agreement between Sir Francis Fortescue and the Copyholders of the Manor—1610.

"This Indenture made the nyenth of Februarye, in the yeare of the rayne of our Sovaraigne Lord, James, by grace of God, of England, Ffrance and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, of the 7th, and of Scotland the 48th, (1610).

"Between Sir Ffrancis Ffortescue, of Salden, in the County of Bucks, Knight of the Honorable Order of the Bath, and Lord of the Manor of Winslowe, and the members of the same—that is to say, Greeneborowe, Little Horwood, and Shipton, in the said County, of the one part,

"And Peter Ffige, William Edmunds, and Henry Wendover, gentlemen, of Winslowe, Benedict Holland and Robert Stevens, of Greeneborowe, yeomen, and Robert Williat of Little Horwood, aforesaid, gent. For and on behalf of themselves, and all the rest of the Customarie Tenants, (in deed or by reputation) of the said Sir Ffrancis Ffortescue, Lord of the Manor of Winslowe aforesaid, and the members of the same, on the other part.

"A Schedule Indented, of the landes and tenements of the severall copyholders of the Mannor of Wynslowe. with the members thereof, by the Presentment of the Homage, made in the yeare of our Lord God, 1610. Held by Copie of Court Roll at the will of the Lord, according to the custom of the said Mannor. And the rate of the ffines and sums of money to be paid by the tennants and copyholders for composition unto Sir Ffrancis Ffortescue, Knight, Lord of the said Mannor; and the rates of the sums of money that are to be paid by the said tenants personally from tyme to tyme hereafter, for the landes and tennements hereafter mentioned in this Schedule.

"But if any of the said tennants do hold any other landes or tennements by copie of Court Roll (as customary landes), then they are also personally to pay for those landes and tennements after the rate of 5s.6d. for every acre, and 10s.od. for every cottage or tennement not having above two acres of ground thereunto belonging. And hereafter for every fyne of every such tennement or cottage 5s.od., and for the fyne of every acre of grownde 2s.od."

The Schedule contains the names of seventy-five copyhold tenants of the Manor. At Winslow we get those of Peter Ffige,

gent., William Edmunds, gent., Thomas Hogson, William Lownes, Richard Shelton, Henry Wendover, William Gyles, William Tomlyn, William Norman, and Mr. Robert Maynwaringe the Vicar, who held one new cottage and barn and three acres of land.

At Shipton twenty-two tenants are mentioned, including Richard Hogson, Robert Tomlyn, John Robinson, Thomas Bowden, George Elliott, William Glenister, and Matthew Miller.

At Horwood Parva, thirty-eight tenants are mentioned, including William Illynge, John Illynge, Thomas Illynge, Robert Willyot, gent, John Willyott, Thomas Addams, Ffrancis Dannby, Will Hobbs. John Hawkyns, Tho. Pitkyn, Thom. Barker,

At Greeneborowe the names of thirty-six tenants are given, including Ffulke Owen, clerk, John Bowden, Thomas Bowden, William Emerton, Thomas Grace, Benedict Holland the elder, and Benedict Holland the younger, Thomas Montague, John Pitkyn, John Rutland, John Boton, Thoma. Goodspeede, Richard Stevens, Edward Geffes, etc.

A Licence of Alienation from Sir Ffrancis Ffortescue, Knight, to Timothie Cartwright, gent, 1613.

The following is a free translation of a Latin Deed relating to the Manor, and bearing the great seal of King James I. (1613). It is interesting as showing that the Crown still retained some authority and interest in the Manor, notwithstanding its sale by Elizabeth in 1598.

The original Deed bears the signature of Sir Francis Bacon, (afterwards Baron Verulam), who at that time held the office of Attorney General.

"James, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c, To all whom these present letters may come, greeting. Know ye that we of our especial favour, and for £11 13s. 4d. paid into our Treasury, have by virtue of our letters patent, granted and given licence, and for ourselves, our heirs and successors, as far as in us lies, do grant and give licence to our beloved and faithful Francis Fortescue, Knight, and our beloved John Fortescue, Esquire, son and heir apparent of the aforesaid Francis Fortescue, to enable and empower them to give and grant, alienate, and demise, the Manor of Winslowe, Shypton, Greneburrowe, and Horwood Parva, with all that appertains and belongs to the same, in our County of Buckingham, which they hold from us in chief, (as it is termed), either by the agent of our Court before our Justices of the King's Bench, or in any other manner whatever, at the will of these our beloved Francis and John, to Timothy Cartwright (gentleman), and Francis Curson (gentleman), to have and to hold by the same Timothy Cartwright and Francis Curson, and the heirs and assigns of the same Timothy, for the use of the aforesaid Francis Fortescue, for the term of his natural life without impediment; and after the decease of the same Francis Fortescue, for the use of the before-mentioned John Fortescue, and his heirs and assigns, to hold of us, our heirs and successors as is due and according to law. And to the same Timothy Carwright and Francis Curson, to empower

them to receive the aforesaid Manor from the before-mentioned Francis and John Fortescue, and to hold the same for themselves, and the heirs and assigns of the same Timothy, for the use of the aforesaid of us, our heirs and successors on the terms aforesaid, in accordance with the tenour of these presents we have given. And for ourselves, our heirs and successors aforesaid, we do give especial licence, not willing that the aforesaid Francis and John Fortescue, or their successors, or the aforesaid Timothy Cartwright and Francis Curson, or the heirs of the same Timothy, should by us, our heirs or successors, or by the Justices, Bailiffs, or other officers or servants of ours, or of our heirs or successors whatsoever, be disturbed, molested, attacked, harrassed or oppressed in anything, nor by any one of them be so disturbed, harrassed or oppressed in anything.

In witness whereof we have caused these Letters Patent to be executed.

Witnessed by myself at Westminster on the first day of April, in the eleventh year of our reign over England, France and Ireland, and forty-sixth over Scotland. BACON.

Court of Survey held by the Villiers' Family.

When the Manor changed owners, and passed into the hands of the Villiers' family, "A Court of Survey" was again held, as we learn from an old Deed, bearing date, A.D. 1660, from which we make the following extracts.—

The names of the Homage or Jury upon this occasion were, Thomas Oakeley, William Illing, Emmanuel Ward, John Illing, John Barton, Nicholas Wyatt, and John Stevens. William Lane, Steward.

"Articles to be enquired of by the Jury sworn at a Court of Survey of the Manor of Winslowe, ("cum membris"), in the County of Bucks, holden on the 8th day of October, in the yeare of our Lord God, 1660, for the Right Noble Lord, George, Duke, Marquis, and Earle of Buckingham, Earle of Coventry, Viscount Villiers, Barron Whaddon, (of Whaddon), Knight of the most Noble Order of the Garter, and one of His Majesty's most Honorable Privy Councell."

As in the former instance the enquiry was most searching; in answer to which the Jury gave a very lengthy reply.

"The Presentment made by the Tenants and Homagers of the Manor of Winselowe, of the customs, bounds, liberties, and other things appertaining and belonging to ye said Manor, according to the several articles delivered to them in writing, at a Court holden at the said Manor on the 8th day of October, 1660, in the 20th yeare of the reign of our Soveraigne Lord, Charles the II.

"By the Oaths of John Hogson, Benedict Holland of the Elme, Benedict Holland of the Pound, John Henley the elder, John Henley the younger, Roger Woonall, William Lunt otherwise Spooner, Thomas Kirby, Hugh Seaton, Richard Phipps, William Townsend, Wendover Lownds, and Thomas Goodwyn.

"The Jury say that they suspect and believe that the Court

Rolls etc, are in the hands of Richard Hodgkins, of Winslowe, Robert Bowden, of Granborowe, Ffrancis Woodcock, of Great Horwood, and Ffrancis Clarke, of Barkhampstead, or some of them.

"There is now belonging to the said Manor, a Messuage or House called "The Mote-hall," situate near the Markett-place of Winslowe, and is now in the occupation of one William Norman, as customary tenant.

The Freeholders in Winslowe Manor are, in Winslowe, Edmond Paxon; and in Little Horwood, John Addams, John Grange, William Illing, William Smith, Thomas Ward, Thomas Smith, John Palladine, John Carter, William Bailey, Richard Danby, and no more to our knowledge.

"Upon the death of every Copyholder there is due to the Lord a Herriott, being the best good within the Manor; and in case there be no goods, the Lord shall have the best tree, or one land of corne; and upon every admittance, there is due to the Lord for ffine as followeth.—For a Messuage or Cottage, and under three acres of land, only 5s.od.; and for a Messuage or Cottage, and three acres of land, only 6s od.; and for every yard land, £3; and so proportionable to a quarter of a yard land; and for all broken lands, 2s.od for every acre; and for every Messuage or Cottage without lands, 5s.od.

"There is a Malt Mill in the said Manor, in the occupation of Hugh Seaton; and he hath a lease thereof from the former lords of the said Manor, for certain hundreds of years to come, as we are informed. We do not know of any suit or service the tenants owe to the lords for the same.

"There is one ffaire within the said Manor yearly, on the 10th of August; and there is for toll due to the lord, fourpence a piece for horses, twopence for each cow or bullock, eightpence a score for sheep, and a penny for a hogg, from all persons except tenants of the Manor. And the same have been collected from time to time by the Bailiffs of the Manor.

"There is an Impropriation of the Church Tithes of Winslowe, but whether it belongs to this Manor we know not. And there is a Close, called the Parsonage Close, and thereon is a barn, and part of ye said barn is lately converted into a tenement, and that the parishioners of Winslowe have the tithe, tenement and close in * * by grant of the most noble the Duke of Buckingham. But of any advowsons, parsonages, ffree guifts, or presentations to parsonages, Vicaridges or Chappels, they know not.

"There is a House in Winslowe, called the Church House, and a headland of the said Manor, that is in certain feoffees for the use of the poore of the said parish of Winslowe, and also two cottages for the same use, and six acres and a half of land for use aforesaid; and there hath bene usually pay'd by the Lord of

the said Manor to the Overseers of the Poor out of the Impropriation, four shillings a month.

"And there are three half-acres of land and one headland in Little Horwood for use of the Church there.

"There are also four ridges of land in Granborowe for the use of the Church there, and also some held by feoffees for the use of the Vicar there. We do not know of any timber or wood the lord hath upon any demesnes or copyholds in this Manor, except he hath any in the wood called "The Abbot's Wood" in the parish of Little Horwood." * * *

"Memorandum of what Writings were taken out of the Chest in the Church, 12th September, 1718."

"Memorand.—On the twelfth day of September, 1718, the wooden chest containing the muniments concerning the Manor of Winslowe and its members, was brought to the house of John Wyatt of Shipton, (the town of Wynslowe being then very much visited with the small pox*), and then and there opened by Mr. Daniel Gyles, who had the key for Winslowe, John Henley who had the key for Shipton, Thomas Montague who had the key for Grandborough, and William Illing who had the key for Little Horwood.

"And there was then and there taken out of the same the Writings following, viz :—A Copy attested by Oliver Lawrence, late Steward of the said Manor and others, of the Presentments made by the Tenants and Homages at a Court held the one and twentieth day of July, 1600, by the Steward and Commissioners of Sir John Fortescue, anno. 43 Elizabeth. And copyes of Court Rolls made at a Court of Survey for the said Mannor, holden on the eighth day of October, 1660, for George, late Duke of Buckingham, containing the articles given in charge to the Jury, and the presentments made thereupon by the Tenants and Homagers of the customs, libertyes, bounds, precincts, and other things belonging to the said Mannor of Winslowe and its members. And a bundle of papers, (or Court Rolls), containing the memorials of several Courts held in the time of King Henry VIII.

"And the Writings soe taken out were immediately sealed up and delivered to John Henley in order to be exhibited to Commissioners appointed for examining of witnesses in a Cause depending in the High Court of Chancery, between James Selby, Sergeant att Lawe, (plaintiff), and William Lowndes, Esq., (defendant).

"Signed, Tho. Aldridge, Tho. Foster, Will Stevens, Simon Hogson, William Shelton, John Markham, John Wyatt, William Lowndes, senior, R. Lowndes, John Henley, Daniel Gyles, Tho. Mountague, William Illing."

[* *Note.* The Parish Register shows that during the year 1718 there were forty-eight deaths in Winslow, being greatly in excess of the average.

Shipton.

Although no mention is made of the Hamlet of Shipton in the Domesday Survey, yet it would seem to date back to Saxon times. The latter part of the name, "ton" or "tun" indicating that it was then the 'Vill' of a Manor.

The earliest date we have found in which the Hamlet is directly referred to, is that of a Charter of King Henry I, (circ. 1100-35), dated at Westminster, whereby he granted and confirmed to God and the Church in the person of the Abbot of St. Albans,—Grenesbury, Wyneslaw, Sipeton, and Horwood Parva, together with the Forest and Chase.

Again in the reign of Henry II, (circ. 1154-89), another Charter was made, whereby that King also granted and confirmed to the Abbot of St. Albans the Manor of Wynslowe, including Sypetumam, Grenesbury, and Horwode, with the Forest and Chase.

In the records of a Court of the Manor held in the 35th year of King Edward III, (1361), a particular account is given of a Messuage at Shipton, together with a "Virgate" or "Yard Land" held by one John Moldson, consisting of a number of half-acre strips of land scattered all over the open fields of the Hamlet and Parish, the local name of each particular spot where every strip was situate being given, of which the following are illustrations.—Shiptondene, Hoggestoneford, Clayforlong, Brereforlong, Portewaye, Wodeway, Waterforough, Medeforlong, Clayforde, Shrovedoles, Mereslade, Rushmede, Brodemore, le Thorne, Anamandlonde, (by the King's Highway), Chircheheigh, Loft-thorne, Howeshomme, le Knolle, Stoteford, Fyve-acres, Thorlong, Cokwell, Eldeleys, Langeslo. etc.

Shipton was enclosed under an Act of Parliament passed in 1743. This Act gives the names of some nineteen persons who were seized or possessed of the Common Fields, amounting to 640 acres or thereabouts. Among the names we find those of Charles Bowler, John Bowler and Thomas Bowler, Richard Eden, Robert Eden, John Elliott, George Elliott, Matthew Hobbs, John Henley and others. It states that Richard Lowndes, Esq., was Lord of the Manor, and seized of the impropriate tithes of all corn, grain and hay arising or growing within the said Hamlet.

That James Edmonds was Vicar of Winslow; and in right of that Vicarage was entitled to certain Vicarial Tithes arising and renewing within the Parish of Winslow-cum-Shipton. And it directed the Commissioners appointed under the said Act "to appoint and allot unto the said James Edmonds and his successors,

Vicars of the Parish Church of Winslow for the time being, one Close of Greensward, known by the name of Smithell Close, with as much land out of *The Red Field* thereunto adjoining, as together shall be of the yearly value of thirty pounds when enclosed."

In an old map of the Parish, made previous to the Enclosure, a road is shown as leading direct from Shipton towards Little Horwood, passing down a field now called the Cow Pasture, and joining another road from the centre of Winslow a short distance from Little Horwood Ford. This road was probably discontinued about 1767, when the present road to Little Horwood was made. This disused road can still plainly be traced.

NOTE. *In previous pages we have had occasion to mention the New-town of Winslow. From certain evidences, together with the irregular appearance of the land at that spot, we feel warranted in suggesting that the "Vill" or "Village" of Winslow was originally situate upon "the small hill gently rising," now known as Dene Hill, (immediately opposite the present road to Little Horwood). Here was probably King Offa's "Palace" or Hunting Residence, also the first Church. But when the present Church was erected about* 1290-1300 *upon a fresh site, then houses sprang up around it and formed "le Newetowne."*

The Manor of Biggin.

"The Moated Grange."—*Shakespeare.*

Scattered throughout the many venerable Latin Deeds connected with the Manor of Winslow, we find frequent mention of the Grange at Biggin.

Old Thomas Fuller in his "Church History" states that "Granges were the Farms of Monasteries where the religious reposited their corn. They were often the residences of the heads of the Monastery. There was a housekeeper ('hospitalis frater grangiae') at every grange; and the bailiff who managed the farm was called the "Grangiary." These Granges were sometimes moated and otherwise fortified." This appears to have been the case at Biggin.

Biggin is probably the separate Manor that Egelwinus and Wynflede his wife gave to the Abbey of St. Alban in the time of Edward the Confessor.

The spot upon which the extensive range of buildings, once forming the Grange, formerly stood, is situate nearly a mile to the south of Winslow, not far from the present Grandborough Bridge. This was the Demesne of the Lord of the Manor; the Grange being occupied by the Bailiff or Steward, and probably some of the Monks of the Abbey of St. Albans. Here also was a Chapel of considerable architectural beauty. And it was here

that the "Halimote" or Court of the Manor was held in the Tudor period, although we subsequently find mention of a Mote-hall in Winslow.

In the time of Michael the 29th Abbot, who held that office from A.D. 1335 to 1349, it is mentioned in the Abbey Records as the "Maneria de Byggyng-cum-Grenesborw in Hundredo de Wodesdon," and in the Court Rolls of 1431-2 there is mention of the Hall or well-fortified Manor-house of Byggin.

Upon the neighbouring stream was probably the "Lord's Mill," although in later years frequent mention is made of "Mill-hill" in Grenesburgh.

At one time the ancient road from Winslow to Grandborough evidently ran more to the right than at present, and so passed immediately in front of the Monastic buildings, for the old ford-way through the river there can yet be plainly traced.

We have elsewhere mentioned how Abbot John Moote, between the years 1396-1401, "rebuilt the Grange at Biggin and fortified it with very steep earthen walls," and John of Wheathamstead, between 1420-1440, built two new Barns and one Pidgeon-house there.

Although much of the land of the Manor is now included in Grandborough, yet it was formerly considered by the monks to form part of the "Vil" or town of Winslow; and its history is so intimately connected with that place, that it is difficult to dissever them without needless repetition.

The name "Biggin" is one of some obscurity. Sir Henry Chauncy, Knight, in his "History of Hertfordshire," A.D. 1700, says that "Biggin' is an old English word which signifies an Hall or a Mannor House; and there be divers Mannor Houses, so called at this day" He also mentions four Manors in Hertfordshire bearing that name,—one at Rickmansworth having been the property of the Abbots of St. Albans in former times. Although the explanation of the word Biggin given by Chauncy appears to be the natural one, yet we find in "Cuff's Guide to Dover" that one of the Gates of that very ancient town was named "Biggin Gate," after the order of nuns called "Beguines," founded by St. Bega about A.D. 698. The name is still retained in Biggin Street, Dover.

Biggin continued to form part of the possessions of St. Alban's Abbey until the general dissolution of religious houses in the reign of Henry VIII, when it reverted to the Crown.

Big-End, or Biggin Manor or Grange in Greenburgh,—part of the possessions held by the dissolved Abbey of St. Albans, was granted by King Henry VIII, by patent, dated 12th March, 1539, to Richard Breame, Esq., and Margaret his wife, for the term of their respective lives, from Michaelmas then preceding, and to the survivor at £50 16s. 1½d. for all the lands thereby granted.

King Edward VI by patent, dated 28th June, 1551, demised to Benedict Lee the Manor of Biggend for twenty-one years, at £10 per annum. And King Philip and Queen Mary in consideration of the sum of £216 16s. od., granted to Benedict Lee the reversion of the same, which had been previously demised by the Abbot of St Albans to John Duncombe.

In 1586 the Crown granted to John Fortescue of Salden, in consideration of a fine of £6 13s. od., a lease for 21 years, at the annual rent of £1 13s. 4d. of the office of Bailiff and Clerk of the Market of Winslow, *and all waifs and strays in right of the Manor of Biggin*, near Winslow.

In 1598 the Manor was sold by the Crown to Sir John Fortescue. About this time it was assessed under the name of Biggin Farm, to provide beeves and muttons to the amount of £7 18s. 5d. for the Royal household. And in 1620 Sir Thomas Lee, Knight, was rated at £30 yearly for this Farm.

In 1677, one Martha Jones, (alias Sandford), of Epperton Co. Notts, and others, conveyed to Sir Robert Clayton, Knight, Alderman of London, and John Norris, Esq., in consideration of £4,119 3s. 4d., the Manor and Farm called Bigyn, or Bury Farm, and lands in Grenesburgh and Winslowe.

In "Sheahan's History of Bucks", 1862, it is stated, that in a document, then in the possession of the Rev. J. W. Hayward, Vicar of Grandborough, mention is made of Biggin Farm, which is there described as situate a little below the Bridge which unites Winslow and Grandborough parishes near the river side. Here stood an antique Chapel in which was a large beam, upon which was carved a cross, before which the Parish processions halted on Rogation Monday.

Browne Willis states that the Chapel was pulled down after the restoration of King Charles II, by John Deverell of Swanbourne, who sold the materials ; but part of the farm buildings were left standing long after this time, yet nothing now remains but a wide deep moat and extensive embankments to mark the site.

The Church.

There is every reason to believe that a Church existed at Winslow long previous to the erection of the present building, although the documentary evidence to prove the fact is not very strong, and no mention is made in the Domesday Book of either Church or Priest at Winslow.

Lipscomb in his history of Bucks, states that the present Church was commenced in the last years of the thirteenth century, and completed early in the next. He also mentions a Deed or Roll of the date of A.D. 1260, in which *Eston*, or Aston Abbotts was then described as being a Chapel-of-Ease to Winslow,—as were also "Horlewode and Greneburgh," all which places formed part of this Manor, and of the ancient demesnes of St. Alban's Abbey.

As this Deed relates to a period apparently some fifty years prior to the erection of the present Church, it must have referred to an earlier building which then held the position of Mother Church to three other parishes.

We have elsewhere alluded to "Johanni et Roberto," Vicars of Wynselowe and Horewode, who about 1275 were called upon to excommunicate the Bishop of Lincoln's proctor in their several Parish Churches.

Another fact is that A.D. 1235 the Abbot of St. Albans received a Charter to hold a Fair at Wynselowe on the Feast of St. Laurence (August 10th), who was then considered the Patron Saint of Church and Parish. And as the Roman Catholic Church required that these particular Saint's days should be observed as special days of devotion, we may almost take it for granted that Winslow then possessed a Church in which to celebrate the Feast of her Patron Saint.

It may also be noticed that these once Chapels-of-Ease at Grandborough and Little Horwood both yet possess features of greater antiquity than the present Church at Winslow; several of the pillars of the Nave of Little Horwood Church being of Norman type; and we may fairly conclude that the first Church at Winslow was reared by Saxon hands.

The following brief description of the present Church is taken from "The Ecclesiastical and Architectural Topography of England. 1849. The writer of this particular paragraph being William Caveler, Esq., Architect.—"Winslow (St. Laurence) Chancel, Nave with aisles, and south porch, tower at west end. Some decorated windows at the west end seem to be the earliest work now remaining in this Church. The general style is perpendicular, with good details, but without anything calling for particular remark."

There is a general view of the Church in Lipscomb's Bucks, Vol. 3, page 548, which shows the low-pitched roofs of the Nave

and Chancel as they appeared about 1840. And about the same date, Messrs Leighton Bros., of London, published an excellent lithograph view of the Church from the S.W. sides, showing the original windows in the lower part of the tower, with the old belfry door, (now happily restored to its former use as a window).

The following interesting account of the Church was given in a report in 1883, by John Oldrid Scott, Esq., the Architect, who was subsequently engaged to carry out the restoration of the building. He says "Winslow Parish Church is a building full of interest, and although it has suffered from the usual neglect of bygone times, it has received no irreparable injury. while its structure is in unusually good repair, so far as its stability is concerned. The Church consists of a nave of four bays, a large Chancel, a Western Tower, and North and South aisles. There is a fine late Porch on the south side of the building, and the Church was originally completed by a Sacristy to the North of the Chancel, this has now disappeared, but its doorway remains. Generally speaking, the Church dates from the end of the thirteenth century, or the beginning of the next. Indeed the whole is of this period, with the following exceptions—the upper stage of the Tower, the south porch, various windows, especially the east window, which were inserted in Perpendicular times, the upper part of the Clerestory, the five windows of the aisles, and the roofs throughout. The windows at the west end are all original, as are two others, one in the Chancel, and one in the north aisle. One Clerestory window also remains on each side—these are small cusped circles. Inside, the stonework is on the whole in a good state and will require but little doing to it; unhappily none of the ancient fittings remain, nor any trace of them beyond the marks of the old rood screen, and of the par-closes which once filled the nave arches at its eastern end, parting off the chapels which were then at the ends of the two aisles. The pulpit is Jacobean and of very good design, and there are some curious gates at the entrance to the Chancel. During my visit, the old sacristy door, the piscina in the Chancel, and another of somewhat unusual design in the south aisle were brought to light, as well as an aumbrey, also in the south aisle. The beauty of the Church is much hidden at present by galleries etc., when these obstructions are cleared away, the fine proportions of the Church will be seen. The Church is so very good in itself, that it well deserves good treatment."

The massive tower, 64 feet high, contains six bells and a small sanctus bell of an earlier date than the others; also a clock and chimes, playing the tune of "Old St. David" every three hours.

Browne Willis states that these bells were cast from an older peal of five, by Keene, of Woodstock, in June, 1668, and gives the weight of the old bells as 7,500 lbs, and the new ones

6,800 lbs. Only two bells now remain of the latter peal, viz,—the fourth and fifth.

The Sanctus bell was cast at Buckingham, and bears this inscription, "ROBERT ATTON MADE ME, 1611,—W. Lovnes, W. Giles, T. Tomlin, —Gibbard, witch benefactors [gave] this Bel."

First Bell,—"EDWARD HALL MADE ME, 1730," [this bell was cast at Drayton Parslow].

Second,—"Rev. W. W. McCreight, Vicar, 1846; Samuel Graves Dudley, Thomas Moorcraft, Churchwardens; C. and G. Mears, Founders, London."

Third,—"Thomas Smallbone, John Godwyn, Charles Boller, C. W., 1670."

Fourth,—"1668." Fifth,—"1668."

Sixth,—John Gibbs, John Dudley, Thomas Ingram, Churchwardens, 1777. Pack and Chapman, London, Fecit.

At the Church restoration in 1884, all the cumbrous galleries were cleared away, as were all the high-back pews. The ancient windows throughout the building were reglazed and the stonework repaired, and an objectionable modern doorway leading to a gallery in the south aisle was removed, and the space restored to its original use as a window.

The ancient doorway in the north aisle which had been partly blocked up and utilised as a window, was again adapted to its original use, with a stout oaken door.

Evidence of a Lady Chapel at the east end of the south aisle, with a piscina, were found, also traces of another Chapel with its piscina in the north aisle. Another piscina with an aumbrey were uncovered in the south wall of the Chancel, and are now restored after having been hidden for some 240 years.

A new feature in *this* chancel was the introduction in 1884 of an elaborate Sedilia on the south side, having three seats canopied, with carved emblems of the four Evangelists at the termination of the label mouldings.

In the north aisle traces of mural paintings were found, but these had been nearly destroyed by the erection of a marble memorial tablet to the Rev. W. W. McCreight, a former Vicar, who died in 1871.

There are three stained-glass windows in the Church, the principal being one on the south side, of four lights, the subjects being "Our Lord's agony in the Garden," "The Crucifixion," "The Resurrection," and "The Ascension," with the following inscription,—"To the glory of God. Rev. John Miles, B.D., late Incumbent of Trinity Church, Paddington."

Another window of two lights, also on the south side, with figures of St. Agnes and her lamb, and St. Margaret, in memory of "Maria Louisa Newham, Died, December, 1874."

A window at the west end of the Church, (in the tower), of two lights; the subject being "St. Laurence distributing alms to

the poor," below which is this inscription.—"In loving memory of Edward William Selby Lowndes, obit., 1885."

Lipscomb in his account of this Church, says "that about A.D, 1700, Mr. Secretary Lowndes repaved the Chancel throughout with Bicester stones, and new leaded the roof; he also sank a vault in the Chancel for his family burial place, raised the altar two steps, and paved the space within the rails with Danish marble.

His eldest son, Robert, who succeeded to his estate, afterwards set up behind the Communion Table, the Creed and Lord's Prayer in gold letters."

This Vault being quite full, has now been permanently closed. The boards whereon the Creed and Lord's Prayer were written have been removed, as have also others containing the names of many generous benefactors; others being substituted in the south aisle, containing a list of the "Priests" or Vicars of the Church from pre-Reformation times.

The pair of curious Jacobean oak gates which occupied the place of the rood screen at the entrance of the chancel have now disappeared; the pulpit has been modernised, and removed to a different spot; the ancient font has been discarded, and a new one erected, "handsomely designed in Caen stone, with Purbeck marble shafts." The Font cover—of which the ornamental parts are composed of stucco, or some similar plastic material—came from the Chapel of St. Paul's School, Stony Stratford.

The Chancel fittings are new, of English oak, and of handsome design; the Reredos is of oak, beautifully wrought in panels, with gilding, cresting, and carved pinnacles. The old Altar table has been altered, and "duly adapted to modern requirements." A still older Altar table has been removed from the Church, and is now utilised for *domestic* purposes in another place.

Externally, the building has undergone very considerable alteration. The comparatively modern low roof over the Nave has now been replaced by a massive new one of oak, of the original high pitch.

A somewhat doubtful improvement was made in raising the roof of the Chancel to match the high pitch of the Nave, and so externally destroying the ancient roof, covered with substantial lead, which seemed so thoroughly to accord with the architecture of that part of the Church. Happily the interior part has not been interfered with, and retains its original features. The new roof, covered with tiles, as viewed from the High Street, has a most barn-like appearance.

The Porch has been thoroughly restored upon the old lines. The timbers of the oak roof have been repaired, and still retain the initials, G.S., R.S., and F.D., 1677, (probably the date of a previous restoration). This now forms one of the most interesting

parts of the Church, with its sculptured heads of enormous size, and monstrously exaggerated features projecting from under the battlements. The range of pinnacles on the roof, of good workmanship, each faced with a trefoil-headed panel and crowned with a flowered finial, while an entirely new niche and canopy (upon the lines of a former one), placed over the entrance, contains a finely sculptured figure of St. Laurence, the patron saint, bearing in one hand the traditionary gridiron, and in the other a bag of money. The Porch as now restored, forms a very pleasing contrast to its condition a few years since, when it was used as a place for keeping the Parish Fire Engine, (the fire buckets and drags being then placed in the north aisle of the Church).

In 1889 a new Chancel Aisle was erected on the north side, having a connection with the body of the Church, with an arcading of three arches. During the erection of this Aisle, the workmen uncovered an Hagisscope, or Squint, of ancient date; the Chancel wall at that particular spot being formed of rubble-work of a different description to that of any other part of the Church, and which appeared to have formed part of an earlier Chancel than the present one. Other traces of a previous building were also found during the restoration, portions of chiseled and carved stones being found embedded in the walls.

Coles, the Antiquary, (M.S.S. Brit., Mus.), alleges that the Chancel of Winslow Church was destroyed by Cornelius Holland, the regecide, during the time of the Civil War. But beyond his statement, no other evidence that such was the fact has been obtained.

In the stonework of the Chancel doorway, upon the inner side, are rudely, but distinctly cut, the names of two of the Vicars, viz,—"Robert Mainwaring, Oct. 14, Anno Dom., 1646. Samuel Dix, Vicar, 1663."

Among the many old Documents yet remaining in the "Watching Gallery" in St. Alban's Abbey, is the following, relating to the erection of the "Singers' Gallery" in Winslow Church.—

"Whereas, Sir Ralph Verney, Knight, Major Stafford, and others, did give certaine trees towards the makeing of a Gallery in the Parish Church of Winslowe, therefore we, the Archdeacon of St. Albans, doe order and direct (as much as in us lyes) that the said trees be imployed to that use, and the Gallery be sett up before the Belfrey. And that a Vestry be called to agree upon the dimensions, and the form of the said Gallery, and to raise money for defraying the charge thereof."

This document is not signed or dated, and was probably only a draft order.

Sir Ralph Verney, Knight, was probably the fifth of that name and title. He served in the "Long Parliament," being at

different periods M.P. for Aylesbury, Bedford and Buckingham, and died in 1696.

The Major Stafford mentioned, belonged to a family of good position at Tattenhoe. The fourth bell at Whaddon Church has the inscription—"Edmundo Stafford, Armig," A.D. 1671.

An oak beam in this now demolished gallery, bore the date, 1682, and this would appear to have been the time of its erection.

The Living.

The Church and Vicarage, with its members ecclesiastical, (Little Horwood, Grandborough and Aston Abbotts), partook of certain peculiar privileges possessed by the Abbots of St. Albans, who exercised spiritual authority over all the Churches belonging to their Abbey.

It is stated that an Agreement was made A.D. 1219, between Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, and the Abbot of St. Albans, that neither the Bishop, nor any of his successors should interfere with the appropriation and ordination of any Vicarage belonging to that Abbey; but that it should appertain to that Abbot and his successors to appropriate to their own proper use such Vicarages, and to endow and assign a Vicar. And upon every such Vicarage being accordingly endowed and ordained, the Abbots presented the Incumbent, until the dissolution of their Abbey, (circ. 1541;) after which, the various churches that had previously been under their jurisdiction, were made part of the See of London.

In the accounts of Thomas de la Mare, the 30th Abbot of St. Albans, A.D. 1349, it is stated "The Church at Wyneslowe is worth, with the Chapels, £18." The Vicarage of Wyneslowe was then taxed at five marks.

In 1478, William Wallingford, the 36th Abbot. is stated to have granted to the Queen of Edward IV, one turn, or presentation to the Vicarage of Wynselowe.

In 1534, the living was returned as being of the annual value of £11 5s. 8d.; yet in that year the Abbot and Convent of St. Alban granted or demised the Living, or as it is termed in the Deed "The Rectory," of Winslow, to one John Boston, "with all fruits and tenths of corn and hay, within the parish of Winslow and fields there, and in the Hamlet of Shipton, with a barn and close, for the term of forty years, at the annual rental of fourteen pounds.

After the Reformation, the Advowson of Winslow was reserved to the Crown, and made part of the See of London, being wholly exempted from the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Lincoln, in whose diocese the County of Bucks was then situate. After some temporary changes, during which the patronage of the Living became vested in private hands, it again came into the gift of the Crown.

In 1573, April 24th, Queen Elizabeth, after reciting the demise to John Boston in 1534, "for divers causes and considerations," demised to David de Leye, Goldsmith, the Rectory of Winslow, and all fruits and tenths of corn and hay, arising in Winslow and Shipton, with a barn and close, late belonging to St. Alban's Abbey, for the term of 21 years, he paying yearly £14 0s. 0d.

Again, Anno, 1595, 28th January, the Queen demised to Henry Best the Rectory of Winslow, and all tithes of grain and hay in the fields of the parish of Winslow with Shipton, "with a barn and close to the said Rectory belonging, and let to David de Leye for 21 years as above, to the said Henry Best, from Lady-day 1605, for 31 years, he paying yearly for the same, £14.

Anno, 1606, 9th January, King James I, granted to Sir John Fortescue and Richard Tomlyne, the Rectory and Church of Winslow, with the tithe of Winslow and Shipton, and the tithe barn and close of pasture to the same belonging, "late belonging to St. Alban's Monastery," to hold the same in fee, paying yearly £14.

Anno, 1619, 19th January, King James I granted to Laurence Whitaker and Henry Price, the Free Farm rent of Swanbourne Rectory, amounting to £9, and the Rectory and Church of Winslow amounting to £14 ; which Rectories were before demised for certain terms of years at those rents, to Sir John Fortescue and Richard Tomlyne.

About this time, the Great Tithes,—after having been appropriated for centuries to the support of the Monks of St. Albans, and since the Reformation formed part of the revenue of the Crown, came into the hands of the Lord of the Manor, and the Living lapsed into a Vicarage ; the Vicar receiving the small tithes and dues only.

As an illustration of the annoyance connected with the collection of these small tithes in kind, we give the following extracts from an old manuscript.

About 1730, a disagreement arose between the Rev. James Edmonds, the then Vicar of Winslow, and the inhabitants of Shipton, respecting "Tithe Milk." The ground of the Vicar's claim being, that as the inhabitants of Winslow had long been accustomed to pay a tithe of milk in kind, he maintained that he was also entitled to the same dues from the Township of Shipton. The document goes on to state that "The inhabitants of Shipton, —which is a Township within the Parish of Winslow—have, time out of mind, payed for their cow's comon throughout the ffeilds belonging to the said Township, to the Vicar of Winslow and Shipton, after the rate of tenpence for each cow's comon per annum, throughout the said ffeilds of Shipton, on St. Martin's Day ; and that no other demands, within the memory of man, have been payed for Tithe Milk, or for any dues claimed for

Cows' Comon within the said Township.

"The inhabitants of both Winslow and Shipton by custom, have payed for Easter offerings, twopence a head for everyone that is above sixteen years of age, and a garden-penny for every family in lieu of tithes in garden stuff; for every calf at the fall of it 4d.; but no tithe for colts has ever been payed or demanded. The Vicar has every tenth lamb yean'd in the Parish, which he is to take on St. Mark's day, if not otherwise agreed upon; and for sheep wintered in the ffields of Winslow-cum-Shipton, every tenth fleece of wool to be taken at shearing time; and for sheep bought in after Candlemas, a groat per month for every hundred sheep so bought, and so in proportion for any lesser quantity.

"On Hock Munday, [being the Munday s'night after Easter], they (Winslow, exclusive of Shipton), begin to pay to the Vicar the tenth meal of milk, and so continue to do till the first day of August, when the tithing time for milk ceases untill Michaelmas Day at night, and they begin again as before, untill the 11th day of November, called Martinmas Day, and then no more until the next Hock Munday."

How this dispute was settled does not appear; but in 1743, an Act of Parliament was passed for "Dividing and Enclosing the Common Fields in the Hamlet of Shipton," whereby the the Vicar of Winslow was allotted one close of Greensward, called Smithell Close, and other lands in Shipton, in lieu of tithe.

In a Terrier connected with St. Alban's Abbey, Anno, 1554, it is stated "The Guardian [Warden] of the Church of Wynselow holds of the lord of the Manor, one Messuage or Tenement "at the Church Style," in which the Capellanus of the Church now dwells."

1631—A Terrier of this date, states there was then a Vicarage House of four bays, a lean-to, another building out-standing, two bays of Housing built by Robert Maynewaring the then Vicar, a yard, orchard, garden, and little close, all being about an acre of ground, and about 57 acres of Glebe besides.

In the Lord Chancellor's Augmentation Act, 1863, the Vicarage of Winslow is stated to consist of 133 acres of Glebe, and the gross income £270; but this sum has been since augmented.

List of Vicars.

Chauncy in his History of Hertfordshire, states that in the reign of King Henry II, 1154-89, "the Living of Wyneslaw with its Chappels," was with that of other places named, appropriated for the clothing of the poor Monks of St. Alban's Abbey, this was prior to the erection of the present Church at Winslow.

Browne Willis, and Lipscomb, give the following list of Vicars of Winslow, who have held the Living since the erection of the present Church. [Now brought down to date].

1. William Weltown, inst., 1326, on the presentation of the Abbot of St. Albans.
2. John Albyn, who exchanged about 1405, for Albury, Herts, with—
3. Peter Braunchor Braunden, who, 4th May, 1422, exchanged for Steeple Claydon with—
4. William Grecote, (or Gorcote), inst., 25th March, 1425, who exchanged to Croughton, Northants, with—
5. Thomas Spencer, instituted 1425.
6. Henry Tomlyns, inst., 1451, buried in the Chancel of Church.
7. Richard Stratton, inst., 1533. [It will be noticed that 82 years elapsed between the institution of the last two persons, so that probably some names are missing.]
8. Thomas Hobbes, inst., 1535.
9. Sir William Hobbes, inst., 1544. [It was not unusual at this period for the Priest to have the honorary prefix of "Sir", as instanced by Sir John Schorne, of North Marston].
10. Edmund Inco, presented in 1556, by Queen Mary.
11. Richard Edmunds, inst., —, died, Vicar, 1558.
12. William Lewis, inst., 5th July, 1558, on presentation of Queen Mary and King Philip. Another account states that in 1557 the Advowson of the Vicarage was granted to Edmund Bonner, Bishop of London and his successors, in pure and perpetual alms, so that probably this Vicar was nominated by him.
13. Robert Daunce, (or Dauncey), inst., 17th May, 1565.
14. Philip Favour, inst., 10th June, 1590.
15. Robert Mainwaring, A.B., presented 10th June, 1597. He was of St. John's College, Oxford. He was buried here 20th March, 1648.
16. John Bishop, inst., 1648. He was buried here 3rd March, 1652. (In 1650 he was returned to be a constant preacher, and the Vicarage worth thirty pounds per annum).
17. John Pownall was inst., 1652. He was buried here, 1663.
18. Samuel Dix, A.M., presented 2nd December, 1663. He was buried here 8th January, 1680-1. He previously served the Church at Horsendon, Bucks, and was also Curate of Hillesden.
19. John Jones, A.M., presented 11th March, 1681. He was buried here 27th October, 1684.
20. John Croft, A.M., presented 23rd November, 1684. He was buried here 29th April, 1716. He was also Vicar of Grandboro' 1693 to 1716.
21. Egerton Cutler—who was formerly a Sea Chaplain—was presented to the Living in 1716. Died in 1720.
22. James Edmunds, A.M., presented 26th May, 1726. Died April, 1765.
23. John Rawbone, presented 20th May, 1765. He was also Vicar of Grandborough, from 6th August, 1756 to 1775. He was buried at Winslow, 30th January, 1775.
24. Thomas Prichard, inst., 6th February, 1775.
25. Harry Walker, presented 31st March, 1789; exchanged livings 1st July, 1793, to Rectory of Hasleton, Gloucestershire, with—
26. James Preedy, A.M., inducted 8th July, 1793. Died October 12th, 1836; he was buried in the Church. He was formerly master of the very ancient Grammar School at St. Albans; he also held the living of Hinton, Northamptonshire, with Winslow.
27. Thomas Henry Walpole, A.M., inst., 1836. Died October 18th, 1840, aged 41 years, and was buried in the Church Porch.
28. Rev. William W. M'Creight, A.M., inst., February 1841; he resigned the living in 1863. Died October 16th, 1871, aged 70. There is a marble tablet in the Church to his memory.
29. Alfred M. Preston, M.A., inst., 1863. Died October 26th, 1882, aged 60, and is buried in the Churchyard.

30. Hamilton A. Douglas-Hamilton, M.A., inst., February 2nd, 1883; resigned 1889.
31. Philip Herbert Eliot, M.A., present Vicar, inst., 1889.

An Inventory of the Goods of all kinds belonging to the Parish Church of Winslow, A.D. 1757.

"A Communion Table, a Table for the Vestry, a Bier for Burial of the Dead, a Coffer for the Vestments, Six Bells and a Saint's Bell, a Clock and Chimes.

BOOKS.—A parchment Register Book for Christenings and Burials, and another for Marriages, Fox's Martyrs, two Vols., Jewell's Exposition of St. Paul's Epistles with his Sermons and defence of the Apocalypse, A.D. 1611, a Book of Homilies, two Prayer Books for the Communion Service, one Church Bible now in use, one Common Prayer Book now in use, and three old Prayer Books, one old black-letter Church Bible, 1611, Tester's Bible, 6 vols. in Latin, 1507-8, Reportorium in Latin, 1589, with other books, (named).

UTENSILS.—One Brass Sconce in the middle of Church, bought A.D. 1760 [this is evidently a mistake, query 1750], ? one Brass Sconce over Gallery, one Silver Plate, date 1686, one Silver Cup with cover, the gift of Joan Foorde, date 1647, one Silver Cup with cover, small Silver Cup for private houses, one Silver Patin the gift of Joseph Rogers, one other Silver Patin the gift of Sarah Fyge Egerton, two Silver Spoons washed with gold.

VESTMENTS.—Two Surplices, one Hood, one Hearse Cloth, one Black Cushion, a Pulpit Cloth, one Green Carpet (the gift of Thomas Lowndes, Esq., 1622), one Linen Cloth, one Napkin, a purple Desk Cloth, and a Cushion.

BENEFACTIONS.—Two Church Houses situate by the south gate of the Churchyard. One of them in the occupation of William Dudley, of the yearly rent of four pounds, and the other in the occupation of William Firth, of the yearly rent of two pounds; the Churchwardens paying all manner of Taxes.

The above Inventory was taken by us this 9th day of August, 1757,—John Rawbone, Curate; John Budd, Robert Gibbs, Churchwardens. Examined by James Archer, D. Register of St. Albans."

The Church Sacramental Plate.

It is very satisfactory to find that amid all changes these articles have been preserved with the most reverent care. They correspond in description with those mentioned in the Inventory of A.D. 1757.

The earliest in date is a massive silver Chalice of the time of Charles I, with a cover designed so as to serve as a Paten ; it bears the following inscription,—"Winsloe, in Buckingham Sheire ; the guift of Joane Foorde, borne in this Parish, 25th of December, Ano Domi, 1564, and deceased Ano Domi, 1647. The Cover also is inscribed "Winsloe in Buckingham Sheire, 1647.

Another Chalice is inscribed "£2 10s. was given by Francis Amborough towards this Chalice ; 5/- by Frances Worral, the rest by parishioners of Winslow in Com. Buck."

There is also a small Antique Chalice with Paten, designed for use at private houses.

A large Almsdish or Paten,—"Deopie notum, sancte Redditum ab anonymis in usum Ecclesiae parochialis de Winslow in Com Buck, Ano Dom. 1686. Johanne Croft, Vicario ; Thoma Godwyn, Johanne Ambrow, Johanne Dymock, Ecclesiae Custodibus." [Piously vowed, (or dedicated) to God, given by anonymous donors for the use of the Parish Church of Winslow].

In the centre of the Dish is a triangle, with the words "SACRAMENTVM MILITARE" surrounding it.

Another large Silver Paten is inscribed "E.F.S. The gift of Sarah Fyge Egerton." (In the centre of the Paten is the donor's family Coat of Arms).

On another large Silver Paten is inscribed "Sacred to the Altar of the Church of Winslow, the pious Legacy of Joseph Rogers, founder of the Free School there." (In the centre are the donor's initials or monogram).

There are also two very massive Antique Silver Spoons, apparently those mentioned in the Inventory of A.D. 1757.

The Acta, or Record of the Archdeaconry of St. Albans.

In St. Alban's Abbey are kept Transcripts of the Parish Registers in the Archdeaconry of St. Albans,—which formerly included four Parishes in Buckinghamshire.

Those relating to Winslow commence A.D. 1572, and end with 1799 ; but many intervening years are missing,—those of Little Horwood from 1582 to 1799, and those of Grandborough from 1585 to 1797 ; but the Records of both parishes are very deficient and imperfect. Here also are kept Terriers of Church Property, Inductions to Livings, bundles of Letters, with Returns from the several parishes, concerning Church Furniture and Parochial Discipline, with the Penances prescribed and enforced. Many of the documents are in abbreviated Latin, and difficult to decipher ; but the following extracts will give some insight into Winslow life in long past days.

"12th September, 1584.—Certificate that William Heyres? of Wynselow, stood in the Church porch until the first lesson was ended, in a white sheet, and then came and stood in the Middle Alley, desired the people to pray for him, and promised amendment of life."

"Certificate, that Alse [Alice] Lockwood, daughter of Harry Lockwood of Wyneslow, came to the Church, and after the second lesson, stood before the Minister, he reading the Homily against fornication; after the Homily was read, and after saying the Lord's Prayer, she desired the congregation to pray for her, and 'she did her penance very penitently.' Dated 16th Jan. 1586."

"Certificate, that Thomas Cowper of Wynselow, had been into the Church and confessed, and was sorry that he had given such offence in the Church, and he would hereafter be better advised. 16th January, 1586."

"Anno, 1586. Certificate of Vicar, Churchwardens and Sidesmen, that Alexander Ward, of Wynselowe, hath been into Church, and after the Epistle and Gospel, desired the people to pray to God to forgive him his offence, in that he hath suffered certain persons to be in his house eating and drinking in service time." Dated the 12th day of March, 1586."

[*Note.* This person was probably an Innkeeper].

An entry in this "Acta" relates that "Mr. Robert Dance (?) Vicar of Winsloe, Bucks, being examined, touching his ability of learning and knowledge, for the discharge of his calling in the Ministry, on the 4th day of October, Anno, 1586, by me, Roger Williams, is found to be unable to answer in the Latin tongue, and is able, very meanly, to satisfy questions of religion in the English tongue."

(The name of Robert Daunce appears as Vicar of Little Horwood in 1563, which Living he probably resigned. He was instituted Vicar of Winslow the 17th of May, 1565.

In the list of Vicars of Winslow fixed in the Parish Church, he is called Robert Dauncey.

At this period, and in fact for many following years, numbers of the Clergy were "mere readers of Prayers," and on this account they were styled "Reading Vicars," or "Reading Curates."

In an edition of the "Homilies" re-published in 1562, the preface states "that all they which are appointed Ministers have *not* the gift of preaching sufficiently to instruct the people which is entrusted unto them; whereof great inconveniences might arise and ignorance still be .maintained if some honest remedy be not speedily found and provided. Therefore Her Majesty,

[Elizabeth], hath caused the Book of Homilies to be printed anew. All which Homilies Her Majesty commandeth and straitly chargeth all Parsons, Vicars, Curates, and all others having spiritual cure, to read and declare to their parishioners, plainly and distinctly every Sunday and Holy Day, one of the said Homilies as they stand in the book, except there be a Sermon according as it is enjoined in the book of Her Highness's Injunctions."

"The order of Penance done by Robert Daunce, Vicar of Winsloe, Anno Dom., 1584, 26th Elizabeth, the 11th day of Oct. set down by the Right Worshipful Mr. Doctor Bingham, Doctor of the Law, with the testimony of those witnesses underwritten.

"Right Worshipful Mr. Doctor, Whereas it was set down by your Article of Court that I should observe your monition, that was, I should provide and get a preacher, and ask my congregation forgiveness, which things I have observed and performed this 11th day of October. In further testimony of the same, I have caused these men, whose names are underwritten, to put their *names and marks* the day above written, with the testimony of the Preacher.

Thomas Prowd, preacher of the word at Kimbel.

Richard Gerney of Mydl. Cleydon, gent.

By me, William Pigott, Gentleman.

By me, Francis Downes.

William Gylles the elder, Churchwarden.

William, (illegible), × his mark.

Anthony, (illegible), × his mark.

Endorsed. To my singular and approved good friend, Mr. Rockett, give this.

"The Penance done by me, Robert Daunce, the 4th day of October, 1584.

"This, I, Robert Daunce, Vicar of Wynsloe, in County of Buk——, in face of the Church, on Sunday, being the 4th of October, Anno Dom. 1584, immediately after the second lesson at evening prayer, which thing I deferred, hoping to a had a preacher, which I could not get; ye cause was that Doctor Sparke, a Mr. Oggerton, and Mr. Harris are put to silence because they have not [conformed?].

"As giving offence in all kinds of men is displeasing and grievous in God's sight, so in them it is most deplorable which be called to the Ministry, and have cure and special charge over others, because by God's word it is required that they should not only be circumspect and faithful in purely disposing of the word and ministering the Sacraments by Christ ordained, but also in godliness of life and outward behaviour be an example to

their parishioners, that God's glory, by their doctrine and life, may be advanced. Forasmuch therefore as ministers should be light to others, and I, through my frailty and folly have of late not so warily behaved myself among you as became me, specially at that time when I should have been occupied far otherwise. I, not constrained thereunto, but frankly and freely, confess my said folly; the which, though it burst not out into any open act, yet my unseemly behaviour, the place, time, and other circumstances considered, deserveth God's high displeasure, and I fear me, have ministered just cause of offence to-you-ward. In consideration whereof, I do not only acknowledge my offence given to Almighty God, but also I beseach you all for His sake who forgave His death, to bear with and pardon my said folly, and earnestly to pray to God for me, that He will vouchsafe for his Christ's sake, to forgive this my misdoing, and so to direct my ways hereafter, that I may eschew evil, and especially in giving of offence to the holy congregation, and also do that good, both in doctrine and life which appertaineth to my vocation, and that we together may do this, I beseach you to say with me the Lord's Prayer.

"This Penance, I, Robert Daunce, have done the 4th of October, according to the order to me set down."

"Right Worshipful Mr. Doctor Bingham and Mr. Rockett, my humble commendations, which have had earnest mind and care to accomplish the order accordingly by you set down unto me. May it please you to understand the certain truth. I could not get now at this opportunity, but for the more testimony of the truth, I have caused those men whose names and marks are in this letter set down to testify with me, both my willing mind to observe and fulfil your desires, as also to my earnest suit in getting and seeking out the preacher by you prescribed, and for the avoiding of the danger of the law, I have done of my own voluntary, although not by you enjoined, that which I have written in this letter, wherein you shall see the goodwill of my neighbours; for I requested my Churchwardens to set their hands but to that which they heard me openly read, which thing I leave to your consideration, which they would not do, but was constrained to get strangers then being in the Church and other of my neighbours. Desiring you at this time to accept of my doing, till I may accomplish that which was prescribed, which shall be done, God willing, the next Sunday, by one Mr. Prowde. Praying you to send me word by Goffes when your next Court shall be, and I will be there, God willing, with you. Thus I commit you to God. In haste, Winsloe, the 5th of October, Anno Dom., 1584. Yours ever to use, Robert Daunce, Cle.

"My wife hath sent you here enclosed 12d., trusting to make you better mens [amends?] one day, and desireth you to be good to her.

By the Right Worshipful Doctor Bingham, *Official.*

Mr. Rockett, most hearty commendations unto you, giving you to understand, that whereas Mr. Daunce, the Vicar of Winsloe, was appointed by the order of the Court to procure a sermon upon Sunday last, it is so that he can not do it before Sunday next after this that is coming, which is not done for any contempt, for he hath spoken to me and others, and indeed for my own part, whereas he would have had me upon Sunday next, I cannot do it but upon Sunday come fortnight; though I cannot, yet he shall have Mr. Prowde, for our other preachers, as Mr. Doctor Sparks and Mr. Ed. Jorton do not preach but in their own towns. This in haste. I commend you to God, this 2nd day of October, [1584],

Your loving friend hereafter named,

H. Atkys.

[*Note.* Henry Atkys was Vicar of Little Horwood at this time].

"I am right well assured, good Mr. Rockett, and I pray you advertise Mr. Doctor Bingham, that the contents of this letter is true, for I would to God that preaching were more plentiful and preachers had their liberty. Few nowadays attempt out of their own parishes to preach, which is the cause that Mr. Vicar is tied only to Mr. Prowde, who in truth is singular and approved, wherefore the only stay is upon him, and not for any contempt or disobeying the order of your Court. His care I dare assure you was to observe in each part accordingly; for so this two Sundays he requested me to have been there, which, God willing, I mind to do; therefore I pray you, though they present it, you admit this his lawful excuse, seeing it is deserved only for the sermon, which tendeth more to the glory of God than if simply he should have performed his Penance. This with my hearty commendations to you and Mr. Doctor. I commend you to God.

From Fynmer North, Knoll Hill, in the parish of Mydle Cleydon, this 3rd of October, 1584,

Yours wherein I may————"[unsigned].

A.D. 1599. *An order of Penance enjoined to Joane Turnam of the Parish of Wynselow.*

"The saide Joane Turnam shall upon Sunday next, being the 14th day of this instant month of October, at the beginning of Morning Prayer, stand in the Church porch appareled in a white sheet all covered but her face and hands, having in her hand a white rod, and shall there stand until the beginning of the first lesson, and then shall come into the Church in the foresaid sheet, and coming in the Middle Alley of the Church before the minister and congregation, shall acknowledge her fault in committing of incontinency with one Richard Dickens, desiring

God upon her knees to forgive her, and promise amendment of life hereafter, and shall desire the congregation there assembled to pray to God to forgive her, and there so to remain until the end of service and sermon.

"And of the performance hereof, she is to certify (on this side), and before the Feast of All Saints now next ensuing, under the hands of the minister and churchwardens of Wynselow aforesaid. Per me, Tho. Rokett, Deputy of Roger, Archdeacon of St. Albans.

"These are to certify that the above named Joane Turnam hath fully performed the Penance enjoined to her, according to the order here prescribed and set down. In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names the 21st day of October, Anno, 1599. Robert Maynwaring, Minister;

Thomas × Miller,

Thomas × Coxell,

William Spooner × Churchwardens."

Provision of Armour and Men by the Clergy, 1590.

For some years previous to the time of the Spanish Armada, the Clergy, as well as other persons of position, were called upon to provide armour and men to protect the country against foreign invasion.

In the Documents relating to the parishes in the Archdeaconry of St. Albans, are the following entries referring to Winslow, with its members.

xxvj Octobris, 1590.

"The Rate and proporcon of furniture for service appoynted to eu'y the seu'all ministers wth'in the Archedeaconrye of St. Albans.

"Mr. ffavo'r, Vicar of Winsloe, one musket furnished; that is to saye—A musket with flaske, towchbox & murrion and reste, an arming sworde, dagger and girdle & flaske leather, and a man to weare theim.

"Mr. Owen, Vicar of Granboroughe, one Blackbill furnished.

"Mr. Atkys, Vicar of little-Horwood, one Blackbill furnished; that is to saye,—A Jacke, or plate Coate, w'th sleeves & a skull & scottish Cappe, an arming sworde, dagger and girdle, and a man to weare theim."

In answer to these demands, we find the following replies.

"Winsloe, "Sr, wheras my pr'decessor hath bin charged w'th a muscat furnished; I am most humblie to crave yo'r fav'r, whereas yow knowe that Mr. Daunce was not hable to finde him selfe, much less to finde any thinge for the good of the comonwelth. Notw'thstandinge although sheep are gone from where my greatest gaine did arise, accordinge to yo'r wr'ship sumo's and beyond myne habilitie, I am willing & so am provided to serve her Maiestie w'th a Caliv'r furnished, which god willi'ge, I will p'forme, ether in myne owne p'son, or by some other.

I beseech yo'r worship intreat my Lord therevnto, & so I comitt yo'r wor: to god the 18 of Nov., 1590,

[Signed]. Yo'rs at comande, Philip ffavo'r."

"I, ffulke Owen, Vicar of Greneboroughe, have prouided toward my chardge, an arming sworde, dagger & gyrdle, the rest I will prouide as sone as I am able, god willing.

[Signed]. Per me, FULCONEM OWEN."

[Little Horwood] "Sr, in moste hvmble wise my duetie Remembred, I commende me to yo'r worshippe w'th hope of yo'r good healthe, the w'ch I pray god longe contynue to his good will and pleasure, The cause of my writting is to signifie vnto you howe that, whearas I am commanded to be at St. Alband, ye xviijth of this moneth, it is so I cannot, for I am sicke, and haue bene this 10 wick, and haue not in all this tyme bene able to goe abroade, and god knoweth wheather ever I shall. And as concerninge ye ffurniture w'ch I am appointed there to shew, you shall vnderstand howe that I had the like commaundiment above ij years now paste, at w'ch tyme * * being then even as nowe also, farr vnable to doe it; being then even as now also in great debte, and my benefice nothinge by reason of ye Rotte yt came amongst sheepe * * * And accordinge to his L commandumente, yt I would bie a blacke bill onely, w'ch was more then, and is now, than I am well ableto doo, concidering my great charge of v or vj children, the smallness of my livinge, w'ch hath not been this v yeares worthe *vli.* a yeare, and the great debte that I am in; wherfore I moste hvmblie beseche yo'r worshippe even for god cause to stand my good ffriend, for my case is most harde. And more harder than I cane make it knowen. But this I say, and god is my witness, I lye not. Provision for me or myne I haue non, nor yet one crosse, eather of silver or gold, to bie bread to put in our bellies; my maintenaunce this v yeare hath bene preaching here and there now and then * * Wherefore I doubt not but bothe my L grace and my L of London and yo'r worshippe, w'th all others yt fear god, will consider my case, being of honest life & conversation, and one yt searveth ye Lord. And so I sease to trouoble yo'r worshippe any ffarther, commending you to the tuition of the all mighty, who ever bless you and guide you w'th his holie spirit, amen.

This xvjth day of November, [1590], with a weake bodie, a faint heart and a ffeable hand as knoweth ye lord. Yo'r worshipps poore ffriend and well willer for ever to commaund.

[Signed]. H. ATKYS."

Monumental Inscriptions, etc.

"Tis but a simple record of the past,
Scarce worthy of your note; yet there are names
Of good men, and of true, enshrined here."

Our Church is not rich in sculptured effigy or monumental brass; yet some few marble memorial tablets, and a solitary brass or two, have escaped the ravages of time, and of that far more destructive element—the hand of the modern Church "Restorer." Very few of these memorials of our ancient and honoured dead at Winslow have passed unscathed through the Church Restoration of 1884. Several of them have entirely disappeared; and hardly one now occupies its original position.

A modern writer very aptly observes,—"In repairing our venerable Churches, the first object should be to restore those parts that are decayed or dilapidated as much as possible to their original state, and to preserve the inscriptions and other memorials of the dead with all that scrupulous care which is due to the most sacred deposits; instead of which we so often find them most carelessly sacrificed to the exigency of an heating apparatus, or of a modern tesselated pavement."

Browne Willis mentions the following memorials as being in Winslow Church at the time he wrote, (circ. 1720), "at the entrance out of the Church unto the chancel is a black marble,—at top these Arms,—Trettee on a Canton, Leopard's head erased, and underneath this, 'The body of Mr. Robert Loundes, who was aged 64 years, and died the 26th of January, 1683, is interred under this stone. His Father and other of his ancestors having formerly been buried in or near this place.'"

He adds "Robert Lowndes, Esq., son of the above, about Ao. Dni. 1700, repaired the Church and new glazed the windows. In the old windows remained only one piece that was painted, which is still preserved and placed in the east window under his Arms, which are fixed in the middle of the window, with the date under them, viz,—1700. The Arms are 'Argent Trettee on a Canton, Gules a Leopard's Head, Erased Or.'"

[N.B.—The above memorials of the Lowndes' family are now lost, 1894.]

Henry Tomlyns, Vicar of Winslow, by his Will, dated Sept. 10th, A.D. 1451, 29th Henry VI, directed that his body should be buried in the chancel of the Church of St. Laurence, in Winslow.

Anno 1518, 7th Henry VIII. The Will of Thomas Palmer directs that his body should be buried in our Lady's Chapel, in Winslow Church, before our Lady's Image. He leaves x marks to each of his sons, and xx marks to each of his daughters for their marriages.

Anno 1524, 15th Henry VIII Will of Walter Palmer, in which he desires to be buried in the south aisle of St. Laurence Church at Winslow, before our Lady's Image.

Anno 1532, 23rd Henry VIII Will of Richard Willows directs that his body should be buried in the middle space of St. Laurence Church at Winslow, before the Crucifix.

Browne Willis states that there was in the pavement in the middle of the Church an Ancient Stone, and thereon was engraved in modern letters.—"William Willows departed this life Ao. Dni. 14——."

(He adds) "N B.–This Stone had an *Orate* on it, which being lost, the Vicar—Mr. Croft—put this imperfect inscription from memory, that it belonged to William Willows."

In the nave immediately under the clerk's desk was, until recently, a monumental brass with arms, "quarterly a Fesse between 3 Fleur de Liz; 2nd, a Bend charged with three mullets; 3rd, as first; 4th, as second." With the effigies of a man and woman, two boys and five girls, in the dress of the period, with hands folded as in the attitude of prayer; and this inscription,—"Here lyeth under this stone the body of Thomas Ffige, Gent., and Jane his wyfe, who had issue by her ii sonnes and v daughters, and Dyed ye 21st of November, 1578." [This brass is now laid in the chancel.]

A monumental brass in the floor of chancel, with the effigy of a female, bears this inscription,—"Here lyeth buryed the corps of Dorothy Barnard, daughter and co-heir of Ralph Allway, late of Shenley, in the County of Hartford, Esq., who departed this life, ye 15th day of Aprill, Ao. Dni. 1634. Aetatis suae, 26.

In the floor of the chancel, *was until* 1884, a massive flag stone, set at top with a small marble in a Lozenge, with this inscription,—Here lyeth the body of Edward Baswell, Gent., who departed this life, August ye 30th, 1689."

[There is a local tradition that this person was king of the gipsies.]

Inscription upon a white marble slab now lying in the floor of the north aisle of Winslow Church, in memory of several members of the family of the Rev. John Croft, who was Vicar here from 1684 to 1716.

"Auxit numeram dum festum celebraret omnium sanctorum. Rich. Croft, xiv mensium infans, 1691.
Hic alterum praestolatur adventum Rich. Pocok, Ap. 28, 1695.
In vigilus Christi nascentis abdomivit, Elizab. Croft, 1695."

[Richard Croft, an infant of 14 months, while the Festival of All Saints was celebrating, increased their number in 1691.
Here Richard Pocock awaits the second Advent, April 28th, 1695.
Elizabeth Croft fell asleep on the vigil of Christ's birthday, 1695.]

On a handsome mural monument formerly affixed near the arch of chancel, but much mutilated when removed in 1884, and

now laid in the floor of chancel under the choir seats, is the following inscription —"Here lyes interr'd the body of Sarah, relict of Mr. Tho. Egerton; daughter of ye pious and learned Tho. Fyge, Gent., (the last heir male of that family, who departed this life March ye 19th, 1706, leaving behind him five other daughters).

She bequeathed to the poor of this parish of Winslow, (where she deceased, February ye 7th, 1722, in the 53rd year of her age, and directed to be buried among her ancestors), the annual sum of twenty shillings.

In vain I strove to be with quiet blest;
Various sorrows wreck't my destin'd brest,
And I could only in the grave find rest.

She gave a large silver salver for the communion service of this Parish."

[Browne Willis states "Mrs. Egerton, daughter of Mr. Fige, of Winslow, and wife to the Rev. Mr. Thomas Egerton, Rector of Adstock, left to the poor of Winslow one pound per annum; but this gift is lost through the abuse of her Executor, Tho. Alderige, lately mercer here. And they are all dead, or removed out of the parish"].

The Rev. Thomas Egerton, of Adstock, died in 1720. His monument in Adstock Church states that his second wife was Sarah, the daughter of Thomas Fyge, Esq., of London.

She was the Author of "A Collection of Poems" dedicated to Lord Halifax, to which was subsequently added a Pastoral, entitled "The Fond Shepherdess," dedicated to Mr. Congreve, by Mrs. Sarah Fyge, 1706. Many of the poems are of the most amorous character; and her married life was not free from public scandal, as contemporary writings show.

Among the memorials of the dead which were swept away at the Restoration of the Church, was a marble slab in the nave, bearing this inscription,—"To the memory of John Markham, gent., who died 29th May, 1746, aged 63. Also of Phillippa, his wife, who died 20th August, 1723, aged 35. And of Mary and Robert their children, who died in infancy."

Another marble tablet, meeting with a somewhat similar fate, bore the inscription—"In memory of Mrs. Susan Bigg, who departed this life the 28th June, 1782, aged 83 years. Also of Mrs. Elizabeth Bigg and Mr. Robert Bigg."

[This marble tablet is now laid in the floor of the chancel, and hidden by the choir seats].

In the floor of the south aisle *was* a large slab bearing this inscription,—"Elizabeth Tookey, died 9th September, 1782, aged 73. John Tookey, M.D., son of above, obit., 17th Dec., 1817, aet., 69."

[This stone is now lying broken in the Churchyard].

In the porch was a very large slab, stating—"In a vault beneath, lyeth the remains of the Rev. Thomas Walpole, Vicar of this Parish, who died October 1st, 1840, aged 41 years."

[This stone has also been removed from its original position, and now lies in the Churchyard].

On a Pillar at the west end of the nave is a marble tablet bearing this inscription—"In memory of the Rev. Thomas Henry Walpole, Vicar of this parish, died October 1st, 1840, aged 41 years. He was interred beneath the south porch of this Church. Also Amelia, daughter of the above, died July 7th, 1846, aged 17 years. And Sarah, widow of the above-named Rev. T. H. Walpole, died July 11th, 1878, aged 70 years, and was interred in the cemetery at Port Glasgow, Renfrewshire."

In the north aisle is a marble tablet stating that—"In a vault beneath are deposited the remains of Mary and James Preedy."

[*Note.* The Rev. James Preedy was Vicar of Winslow from 1793 to 1836. His vault *was* in the north aisle, but has been destroyed to make room for an heating apparatus].

On the wall of the south aisle is a marble tablet inscribed—"Sacred to the memory of George Cowley, M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. of this town, who died in London, August 28th, 1854, aged 45 years, and was buried in the Tower Hamlets' Cemetery.

"This tablet is erected by his father and the members of the Ancient Order of Foresters Court, 1447, of which he was Surgeon and ordinary member, as a token of their deep affection and regret."

On a similar tablet in the same aisle is this inscription,—"In memory of John Cowley, M.R.C.S., London, who, for fifty-four years was an eminent general practitioner in this town. He died February 28th, 1856, aged 78 years."

"This monument is erected by numerous friends to perpetuate his name, and in testimony of the general estimation in which he was held.

"As in life he was universally respected, so in death he was deeply lamented."

There are but few gravestones *now* standing in the Churchyard requiring any notice, either for their antiquity or peculiarity of inscription. The oldest one to be found bears date, 1692.

Many of the stones are connected with the families of Gyles, Gibbs, Blake, Scott, Tookey, Dudley, Budd, Jones, Maydon, Mayne, Burnham, and others. Some of them of considerable antiquity, have recently been removed from their original position, and no longer mark the resting-place of those whose names they bore ; having in 1884, been appropriated for paving stones round the Church.

Near the west door of the Church, an ancient memorial stone may be found,—now utilised as a paving stone—which was formerly erected

"In Memory of William Shelton, senr.
He departed this life
September ye 27th day, 1728,
in ye 82 yeare of his eage."

(The Sheltons were an ancient family in this parish; their names frequently appear in the Church Register during the 17th and 18th centuries).

On another stone also used for paving purposes, and now lying near the above, is an inscription,—"To the memory of ——Matthews, who was buried in Little St. Faith's, under St. Paul's, London.

On the S.E. side of the Churchyard may yet be found a stone recording an incident of the old Coaching days.—

"Here lyeth the body of
Mr. Thomas Smith, late of
Acton, in the County of Middlesex,
Butterman, whose death was occasioned
by the breaking down of the Buckingham
Stage Coach, near this Town,
on the 7th day of October, 1777.
After living four days in the utmost pain,
he died on the 11th of the same month,
In the 61 year of his age.

Life is so uncertain on this mortal earth,
That we should always be prepared for death.

This Stone was erected by Elizabeth, his disconsolate widow, as a small token of the great regard she had for him, and with a particular desire that at her decease, her remains may be here interred."

Inscription upon a gravestone formerly standing near the footpath upon the south side of the Church, but removed 1885, and now lying on the east side of the porch.

"Here lieth interred
the body of John Turner, late of
this Parish, Surgeon,
whose abilities and care,
tenderness and assiduity,
procured him universal respect.
Resigned to his Maker's will,
he received his summons to another world
with a mind supported by trust in Christ.
In hope of a glorious resurrection.
He died April 13th, 1773,
In the 37th year of his age."

On an Altar Tomb on the S. side of the Churchyard, is an inscription,—now hardly legible—

"To the Memory of Mr. Joseph Turner,
late Surgeon of this place,
Who departed this life April —, 1825, aged 59 years."
[He died at Brackley. Buried at Winslow, April 22nd, 1825].
"Also of Ann Turner, who departed this life, Dec., 1833, aged 77 years."

Near the Infant School on the south of the Churchyard is a gravestone inscribed—

"Sacred to the Memory of Mr. Thomas Rawbone,
Sixty years master of the *Free* School in this Town,
Who died 16th Febry., 1836, aged 84 years."

At the west end of the Church, at the immediate corner of the north aisle, was buried, in 1820, Mr. Edmund Cox, who was one of the largest modern benefactors to the town. Yet this did not save his bones from desecration; for at the Restoration of the Church in 1884, his brick-grave was destroyed, and his gravestone—with that of Mary, his sister—were used for paving purposes.

Well may the poet appeal to those having authority over "God's Acre," to—

"Handle with reverence each crumbling stone;
Respect the very lichen o'er it grown.
And bid each ancient monument to stand
Supported e'en as with a filial hand."

The Church Register.

There have been various opinions as to the precise period when Parish Registers ("Registrum Ecclesiae Parochialis") were first kept in England; but they appear to have been brought into general use about the time of the Reformation.

Dr. Prideaux, in his "Directions to Churchwardens" says—"Parish Registers were first ordered by the Lord Vicegerent Cromwell, in the 30th year of King Henry the Eighth, 1538, and from thence all Parish Registers have their beginning."

In that year the Lord Cromwell issued an injunction, ordaining—"That every Parson, Vicar or Curate, should, for every Church, keep one Book, or Register, wherein he should write the day and year of every wedding, christening, and burial made within his parish, for his time; and so every man succeeding him. And also insert there every person's name that should be so wedded, christened, and buried. * * And every time the same shall be omitted, the party that shall be in the fault thereof shall forfeit to the said Church, iiis.iiij*d.*"

This injunction was repeated in the reign of Edward VI, 1547; Elizabeth, 1559; and James I, 1603.

The Winslow Register commences with the year 1560; the book, being of parchment, is in an excellent state of preservation, considering its age. For the first 28 years all the entries are in Latin. It would seem that at that period the population of the parish was but small, for, during the year 1560, there were only three marriages, five christenings, and two burials recorded. Again in 1563 the numbers were, eight christenings, no marriages, and five burials.

For the first fifty years, no entries of any general public interest occur. They relate principally to the families of Shelton, Thomlyn, Palmer, Mayne, Lownes, Deverall, Ffyge, Hogson, Miller, Godwyn, Spooner, etc., some of whose descendants continue to reside in the parish; but many of the families are now extinct.

In the year 1600, there were eighteen christenings, four marriages, and seven burials. This would indicate a slight increase in the number of inhabitants.

During the confusion which existed in the reign of King Charles I. and the early years of the Commonwealth, many changes took place at Winslow, as elsewhere.

In 1644 an ordinance was passed by the Parliament, "that the Book of Common Prayer should *not* be thenceforth used," so that most probably its use was discontinued in Winslow Church for some fifteen years, during which time there were three different Vicars.

In 1649 the Register contains an entry of the marriage of one of these Vicars; the ceremony being performed at Steeple Claydon.–"Mr. Thomas Bishop, Minister of this parish, and Mrs. Frances White, of Steeple Claydon, were married att Steeple Claydon aforesaid, 31st May, [1649]."

No account appears to have been kept in this parish of the "Briefs" which are so plentiful in many Church books. The following being an almost solitary instance.—

"Memo.—Yt on Septr. 17th, 1653, was collected, and paid unto ye High Constable of this Hundred, (John Adams, junr.), for ye reliefe of ye inhabitants of Marlborough, impoverished by an extraordinary Ffire, which undid many families, the sum of £2 12s. 1d., as appears by ye quittance suffixed.

JOHN POWNALL, Minis."

Civil Marriages.

During the time of the Commonwealth, an Act was passed, enacting that—"A Book of good vellum, or parchment, should be provided in every Parish for the Registering of all marriages, and of all *births* of children, and burials of all sorts of persons within such parish." And the inhabitants and householders of every such parish were required (on or before the 22nd day of September, 1653) to make choice of some able and honest person—such as should be approved, and sworn by one Justice of the Peace,—to have the keeping of the said Register Book, and who should fairly enter in writing all such marriages, births, and burials. "And the person so elected, appointed, and sworn, shall be called the Parish Register."

The following extract from the Church Book, relates to the appointment of this official at Winslow.

"Bucks to wit,—Whereas Robert Wells, of Winslow, hath bin by ye inhahitants of ye s'd P'rsh elected and chosen P'rsh Register, according to a late Act of Parliament in y't behalf provided.

These are therefore to signifie yt ye said Robert Wells is approved, and has bin this 22nd day of Nov., 1653,

Sworn before us, ye undersigned,

RICH. PIGGOTT."

This Register Book contains many curious entries relating to the publication of notices of intended marriages (in accordance with this Act), proclaimed in the Market-place at Winslow.

This peculiar Enactment provided that—"Whosoever should agree to be married within the Commonwealth of England, should deliver in writing unto the Register 21 days before such intended marriage, the names and places of abode of the parties so to be married. * * All which the said Register should publish three Lord's Days then next following, at the close of the morning exercises, in the public meeting-place, commonly called the Church, or Chapel of the parish. Or if the parties so desired it, in the Market-place next to the said Church or Chapel, on three Market-days in three several weeks next following, between the hours of eleven and two; which done, the Register should make a certificate thereof. * * And such persons intending to be married, were required to come before some Justice of the Peace of the same county, city, or town, with such certificate; and if there was no impediment the marriage could proceed. Such marriage contract being performed by the said Justice, who shall, (if it be desired), give unto the parties so married, a certificate on parchment under his hand and seal, of such marriage, and of the day of the solemnization thereof, and of two or more witnesses then present; and the Justice's Clerk, for this certificate, may receive the sum of twelvepence, *and no more.*"

The following extracts from the Church Register will illustrate the mode of procedure under the Act.

"1654. Thomas Curtis of Little Horwood, and Jane Bradbery of Sinkilboro (?), was published three severall Markett-dayes in Winslow Markett; and was married June 14th."

"1654. Thomas Taylor of——, and Mary Anstey, of Swonborne, was published three several Markett-dayes in Winslow Markett; and was married September 17th."

"1655. John Deverall, sonn of William Deverall ye elder, of ye parish of Swanbourne, & Jane Loundes, of ye parish of Winslow, was publish three severall Markett-dayes in Winslow Markett-place, (one ye 7th Februarie, one ye 14th, and one ye 22nd,) and was married Feb. 23rd."

"William hollond of east-Cladon, & elizabeth wootton of steeple-Cladon, was published three severall Markett-dayes in Winslow Markett-place, one ye 17th April, & one ye 24th, & one 1st May, and married May 12th, [1656].

1656. Thomas holloway & Mary Edins, boath of ye parish of swonborne, was three times publish in Winslow Markett-place," &c.

"1657. Wendover Lownds & Susan Ffyges, of Winslow, was published three severall Lord's-dayes in Winslow Parish Church, one ye 27th Sept., one ye 4th and one ye 11th October, and was married 10th Novemb."

The publication of these notices of intended marriages continued to be made in the Market-place up to the year 1660—, the Church Register containing the particulars of forty-three such cases. The parties concerned living in Winslow and the surrounding parishes.

In 1664 there were 16 burials; in 1665, four; in 1666, three; and 1667, 11; but during the three following years, no burials were entered in the Register.

This was the period of the great Plague of London. And this district was infected.

Lipscomb states that Winslow Market was then held at Adstock upon that account.

Burial in Woollen.

By an Act passed in 1666, for the encouragement of woollen manufacturers, and the prevention of the exportation of monies for buying and importing linen, it was enacted that after the 25th March, 1667,—"No person should be buried in any shirt, shift or sheete, other than should be made of wooll only."

The provisions of this Act were so stringent, that even the quilting round the inside of the coffin, and the ligature round the feet of the corpse were required to be woollen. This statute was generally disobeyed, and the penalty seldom enforced. To remedy this, a more stringent Act was passed in 1698, which obliged the officiating Clergyman to make an entry in the Church Register, that an Affidavit had been brought to him within eight days after the burial, that the requirements of the law had been complied with.

Any breach of this Act rendered the offender liable to a penalty of five pounds, of which one moiety went to the poor, and the other to the informer.

In 1679 a new Register Book was commenced; the first entry in it being as follows:—

"A Register of all burials in the parish of Winslow, in the County of Bucks, appointed by an Act for Burying in Woollen for the year 1679; also of all affidavits brought, or not brought, from the last account of the Overseers of the Poor of Winslow.

This book was brought before us Aprill, 1680,—(Signed), Robert Lovell, Edm. West, Bern. Turney."

The number of burials in 1679, was 25; and in each instance a certificate appears to have been produced, or an affidavit made that the deceased was duly buried in woollen, according to law.

In 1684, there is an entry in Latin, to the effect that—"To John Croft is given the actual possession of this Church, with all its members, portions, emoluments, returns, etc. 27th Nov."

In the year 1700, there were 40 christenings, 4 marriages, and 44 burials, a number of deaths out of all proportion to the population.

Under the date 1715-6, an old mode of spelling is revived in the Church Register; the parish being designated "Wynslow."

In 1716 is recorded the burial on April 28th, of "ye Reverend Mr. John Croft, Vicar."

In 1728, there appears to have been the large number of 44 burials.

A memorandum relating to this period states—"The Register of Burials from A.D. 1739 to 1745, has been for some years missing, and no evidence can be obtained that it ever existed. The deficiency however can be supplied from a small pocket book in vellum, probably belonging to the Clerk of the Parish, in which burials are recited from 1736 to 1761."

At the commencement of the year 1752, (new style), appears the following paragraph:—

"According to a late Act of Parliament the year of our Lord begins January 1st, 1752." And later on is another entry that—"Eleven nominal days are omitted in September, 1752, in conformity to a late Act of Parliament."

On the 18th June, 1758, is recorded the burial of one Bartholomew Platt, a strolling player. And on the 27th of the same month, there occurs that of Jane Morris, (Stroller).

On the 1st May, 1767, the Rev. Alexander Markham, Vicar of East Claydon and Steeple Claydon, was buried at Winslow.

The number of deaths recorded in 1781, was 24; and this appears to have been about the average of the previous century.

In 1787, May 9th, is the pathetic entry of the burial of some poor unfortunate wayfarer, who is described as a "Stroller, *ignotis nomine*," his very name being unknown.

In the first year of the present century there were 33 baptisms and 16 deaths. In 1807, the burial fees were increased, —"Memo, Nov. 1807,—The Minister's Burial Fee, increased by consent of the Parish, to three shillings,—J. PREEDY, Vicar."

In 1830, the following interesting particulars respecting an old inhabitant are given in the Church Register, by Mr. Preedy. "William Ovitts was the second person who enlisted into Elliott's Regiment of Light Dragoons, in 1758. He was known to have been an excellent and brave soldier while he served in that regiment, from which he received his discharge 37 or 40 years since. In the battle of Freyburgh, which happened near the conclusion of the "Seven Years War," when the then Hereditary Prince of Brunswick was attempted to be carried off the field a prisoner by French Dragoons, a foot soldier named Ovitts,

single-handed, galloped after them, killed the three French soldiers, and rescued the Prince. In this gallant exploit he was badly wounded. The prince took him to his quarters and had him carefully attended, until his wounds were healed, gave him a purse of 100 guineas, and recommended him for promotion. The latter favour he modestly declined, on account of his education and habits being such as were not suited to any rank above that of a private soldier. After his discharge he lived the remainder of his life in this parish. His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, being made acquainted with his character and conduct, for some years previously to his death, settled on him an allowance of one shilling a day. He was buried on Nov. 20th, 1830, on the south side of the tower."

In the year 1829, leave was given by the Vicar and Churchwardens, to the several occupiers of the houses on the south side of the Churchyard, from the Blacksmith's Shop, then in the occupation of Mr. Edward Gray, to the principal entrance from the town to the Church, to enclose at their own cost a portion of the Churchyard, sixteen-and-a-half-feet from each of such houses, for gardens, upon condition that each occupier of such houses should pay annually for each such garden, to the Vicar for the time being,—if demanded, the sum of sixpence."

This Memo. was ordered to be inserted in the Parish Register, by the Rev. John James Watson, Archdeacon of St. Albans. James Preedy, Vicar; Samuel Dudley, Richard Walker, Churchwardens.

"March 31st, 1840. This day, Mr. Grace the Churchwarden, brought to me the payment of all the sixpences from the occupiers of gardens in the Churchyard.

"The following are the names of the occupiers:—Edward Gray, H. Wigley, Mrs. Burnham, Samuel Yeates, Thomas Lomath, John Moorcroft.

(Signed), F. H. Walpole, Vicar.
Daniel Grace, C.W.

Winslow during the Civil War.

During the time of the Civil War,—in 1643, and following years—Winslow being situate in the midst of both contending parties, did not wholly escape the miseries incident to such a position ; for these were indeed most critical times, and England was torn with dissension.

Carlyle writes—"These were indeed the most confused months that England ever saw. In every shire, in every parish, in alehouses, court houses, churches, markets, wheresoever men were gathered together ; England with sorrowful confusion in every fibre is tearing itself into hostile halves to carry on the strife by pike and bullet henceforth."

A contemporary account, under date of March, 1643, relating to the state of affairs in Buckinghamshire at that time, states—"Prince Rupert, with other great ones, marched to Wendover, and have plundered all the townes thereabout of all their goods and household stuff ; taken and driven away all their horses, beasts and sheep ; spoiled and turned the inside of many fair houses, cut even the farmer's harness, and many things belonging to the plough, and swearing most horrid oathes, that we shall have no crops or harvest this yeare."

At this time, and subsequently, the army of the King was encamped at Brill, with detachments at Boarstall and Hillesden ; and the Parliamentary forces held Aylesbury and Newport Pagnell, so Winslow occasionally received the troops of both, as the marches or expeditions of either party required, and doubtless received but scant mercy from both ; and as it would lay in the line of march between Aylesbury, Buckingham, and Stony Stratford, it must have occasionally been visited by large bodies of troops ; as in June, 1643, when the Earl of Essex marched from Aylesbury to Stony Stratford with six regiments of foot, and forty troops of horse. And in July, 1644, when Major-General Browne marched his large force from Stony Stratford to Aylesbury, from which latter place they set out on the 10th of that month for the attack upon "Greenland House" a few miles beyond Great Marlow.

In 1643, the Royalist party collected a force of about four hundred men from Bicester, Oxon, and the villages of that neighbourhood, and suddenly made their appearance at Winslow, where they captured about forty horses and a considerable store of provisions, being assisted in their search for plunder, by one Jackson, an inhabitant of Winslow. After pillaging the town, the troops went on to Swanbourne, and there met a picket-guard of musqueteers of the Aylesbury garrison; these made the best defence they could, but being overpowered by numbers, they retreated to the Parish Church, and finally had to yield themselves prisoners.

In a scarce Black Letter tract, "Printed for Robert Wood, London, 1643," we get a glimpse of affairs at that time, it is entitled "The Insolency and Cruelty of the Cavaliers," being a true and exact relation of the plundering and pillaging of Winslow and Swanborne, and diverse other townes in the Counties of Buckingham and Hartford, with the manner of their coming to the said townes, the number of their forces, what opposition they found, how they fired Swanborn, and forced the townsmen into the Church, and what pillage they have taken etc."

It is stated of the Royalist troops—"They pillage and plunder all the towns where they come, they murder our neighbours that make but any defence to preserve their goods,—one woman among the rest, bigge with childe, who could make no resistance, they cut in pieces what household goods they cannot carry away; they sweepe cleane divers of our pastures, leaving no cattell behind them; and that no cruelty might be left unexercised by them, they have this day ffired a country village called Swanborne, in seven places of the towne, for no other reason but because they were not willing to be plundered of all they had, and guarded the fire so carefully with all their forces, divided into severall parts, that no neighbors durst adventure to come to quench it."

"This matter being reported to the House of Commons by John Wittewrong and Tho. Tyrrill of Ailesbury, 16 May, 1643, an order was made assigning timber out of Whittlebury Forest to repair the houses that had been burnt down and destroyed by the King's forces at Swanbourne."

In January, 1643, Captain Abercromby, of the Parliamentary Army, was sent out from Newport Pagnell to procure intelligence and supplies in the neighbourhood of Winslow. He fixed his quarters at Addington, (where his entrenchments near the Church may still be seen). At this time a few Royalist soldiers were posted at Hillesden House under Col. Smith. Some of these happened to be busily engaged in hunting up supplies at Winslow, when Abercromby arrived at the town, upon which Smith's detachment prudently withdrew and retreated to Hillesden.

Abercromby writing from "Adintone, this 15 of Januari, 1643;" to the Earl of Essex, rather boastfully relates his military exploits in this neighbourhood. He states—"I have mead bould once more to writ unto your Excellencie to give an account of my proceedings since my last writing. * * Upon Thursday, according to my promise in my leter, I went to Winslow, and within half a mile of the towne I meat with a countrie man, who tould me that the enemy was in the towne; I arst him how strong they war, and if they ware in the town now? and he sayd there was ten within the town drinking, dancing, and sinking themselves, and some fortie-foure with their cullers at the townes end I advanced towards them, and they made no great heast; but at last I advanced with a ful body upon them, they tuke heales and I followed, and they run the hay way to padburie bridg. * * I confess they beat us at running, if it had been for a thousand pound, and rune into their den, which was Sr. alexander denton's house. * * I returned to my quarters. * * * Till I hear furder from your Excellenci, for if I goe away, the poor countie will be ondon, for they can send twenty housmen as they have done here, to roab the poor inhabitants. My, and the country's humble petition is, that your Excellenci would be pleased to send some [troops] to ly constantly here; they would rayse in armes themselves, now they dare not, in regard they do not know how soon wee be gon, and then they be ondon. Heare I shall remain in this hous til I know your Excellenci pleasure, and shall ever remain your Excellencies at command, to sacrafis his blud. JECAMIAH ABERCROMY."

In "Memoirs of the Verney Family during the Civil War," there is related a romantic incident in the life of this Jecamiah Abercromy. It appears that he was one that took a very prominent part in the attack and burning of Hillesden House; and among the inmates was Miss Susan Denton, sister of Sir Alexander Denton, the owner, a somewhat elderly lady, and who was considered by her young nieces to be a confirmed old maid; but who yet must have had some personal attractions remaining, for she roused a tender passion in the martial breast of this rough captain of the besieging forces. The courtship must have been carried on during the two or three hours after the house had been surrendered, and before the distressed group of women and children were permitted to walk off across the fields to take refuge at Claydon. It is suggested that she "did love him as he did pity her." It is evident that their marriage must have taken place very soon; for three days later (March 6th, 1643), John Denton, Sir Alexander's brother, writes:—"My sister Susan, her new husband, Capt. Abercromy, is quartered at Addington, and I fear to the indanger of bringing that house into the condition of Hillesden." In June of the same year, Mrs.

Isham, another of the family, writes :—"Susan's marage is to be accomplished very suddnly if her captine be not killed ; it is him as did fust plunder Hilsdon." In another letter she writes of Abercrombie,—"The Capt., his land is in Irerland ; he is half Skotts, half Irish ; I think fue of her friends lik it, but if she hath not him she will never have any, it is gone so far."

The end of this episode was as sudden as its beginning ; for in the very next year, Henry Verney wrote :—"Your ante's husband, (Captain Abercrombie), was killed this week by a party from Borestall, and buried at Hillesden."

From an entry in the Hillesden Parish Register, we learn that he was buried in the Churchyard on the 13th March, 1645. He appears to have died of wounds received in a skirmish with the King's troops.

From a printed Proclamation in the British Museum, we learn that the 7th day of April, 1644, was appointed a day of public thanksgiving, and an order made that there should be read in the parish churches,—"A catalogue of remarkable mercies conferred upon the eastern and midland counties by the recent victories of the Parliamentary forces, including the taking of Hillesden House,—which victory enabled the Parliament to ease and comfort the poor inhabitants of the almost wasted county of Buckingham."

In June, 1644, King Charles came to Buckingham, and his scouts, or advance guard, held Winslow ; but this was only for a time, for by his indecision and want of plan he was out-generalled in all directions, and soon his army received a vital blow at the battle of Naseby, whereby he afterwards became a prisoner and lost his crown, and ultimately also his life.

NOTE.-It may be explained that during the Civil War the Old Style of reckoning was in use, and the year commenced on the 25th March, and ended on the 24th of the following March. Thus events occurring between the 1st January and the 25th March, are dated as belonging to the previous year.

Winslow Hall.

Winslow Hall is a commodious, but plain brick edifice, standing at the entrance of the town from Aylesbury. Until recent years it was approached from the high road, by a flight of stone steps, with a handsome wrought iron gate leading up to the south front, over the door of which is the name of "William Lowndes" and the date of its erection, A.D. 1700. A modern carriage way now leads to the north front of the house.

Sheahan in his "History of Bucks" 1862, states that this mansion was built from designs by Inigo Jones ; and in "A record of Local Occurrences," by Robert Gibbs, vol. I, 1878, we find under the date of A.D. 1700—"The Manor House at Winslow was built this year for William Lowndes, Esq. Inigo Jones being the architect." A similar statement also is made in "Buckinghamshire Worthies" 1888. This celebrated architect died in 1652, (nearly fifty years before the mansion was erected) ; and although it possibly might have been built from some old design by him, yet it is more probably the work of Sir Christopher Wren, or of Sir John Vanburgh, then coming into note, who was the architect of the County Hall, Aylesbury.

The interior of the mansion has been much modernised of late, yet some of the rooms are still panelled in old dark oak ; in one of the principal rooms on the south side is an elaborately carved oak chimneypiece, bearing date "ANNO, 1647."

The Lowndes' family must evidently have had a mansion at Winslow long previous to the erection of the present one ; and it would be interesting to know the spot where it was situated. Tradition would seem to point to a site on "Dene Hill," long marked by a stately avenue of trees ; the last tenement in Hobhouchin Lane having probably formerly been the gardener's cottage, it having signs of its original doorway, once opening on the south side ; and where would appear to have been the gardens, a deep well was, only a few years since, known to exist.

This Hobhouchin Lane is probably a very ancient bridle or drift way, once passing through a ford at Shipton Brook some quarter-of-a-mile to the west of the present bridge, and continuing along the valley, to what is now called Oakham Gutter, and so on to Maynes Hill and Whitchurch.

Ancient Families.

LOWNES, OR LOWNDES.—The name of this family appears very early in the Winslow Church Register; for we find in the first page of Marriages, an entry relating to "Rob. Lownds, contraxit matrimonium Jane Croke," on the 4th June, 1575; and among the baptisms, those of Edward Lownes, bap. 5th July, 1576; Anna Lownes, bap. 12th January, 1577, and Robert Lownes, bap. 25th Feb., 1580. A Edward Lownds was buried here 30th August, 1575. Jone Lownes, the wife of Robert Lownes, was buried 8th June, 1589. Robert Lownds was married to Eliza Hyrst, 27th November, 1590. Richard Lownds was buried 28th June, 1591. Marie Lownds was buried 19th April, 1600. Henry Wendover and Elizabeth Lownde were married the 4th November, 1604. William Lownds and Ffrances Wendover were married 27th October, 1612. Robert Lounds was married to Alice Spooner 24th July, 1627. 1652, Nov. 19th: William, son of Robert Lowndes, junr., baptised. Browne Willis says—"This was the famous Mr. Lowndes who got the estate; and was buried here January 29th, Ao 1723-4." Wendover Lownds and Susanna Ffyges, married 10th Nov., 1657; and on the 10th Oct., 1667, we find an entry of the burial of Susannah, wife of Wendover Lownds, and subsequently that of Wendover Lownds, buried 26th September, 1687. William Lowndes, Esq., M.P. was buried 29th January, 1723. William Lowndes Selby, died, 1813. Rev. Richard Lowndes, of Swanbourne, buried here 11th February, 1827. And William Selby Lowndes, Esq., "of Whaddon and Winslow," buried May 26th, 1840, aged 73.

The name of W. Lovnes appears on the Sanctus Bell, dated 1611; and frequent mention is made of members of the family as taking an active part in parochial matters. The name of Peter Lownds appears as Overseer of the Poor in 1703, and again in 1709. Peter Lownds, junr., held a like office with Robert Gybbs. In the Diary of Mr. Paul Parkin, of Winslow, under date of September 2nd, 1798, he states that he went to Church twice and heard Mr. Robert Lowndes preach, he at that time being Curate.

It is somewhat peculiar, that although the family have found a burial place at Winslow for more than three hundred years past,—the large family vault under the chancel being entirely filled with their remains—yet no tablet or memorial of any description to their memory is to be found in the Church. The family Coat of Arms, on painted glass, recently to be seen in the east window of the chancel, was removed at the time of the late Church Restoration.

The writer recently saw an Altar Cloth bearing an inscription that it was the gift of Thomas Lowndes, Esq., 1622, being utilised as a carpet for the floor of a cottage at Winslow.

On several occasions a member of the Lowndes' family has been elected to represent Buckinghamshire in Parliament; the most eminent being William Lowndes, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means in the House of Commons, and commonly known as "Ways and Means" Lowndes. He was a grandson of Robert Lowndes, of Winslow, who died in 1602. He became the possessor of the Manor of Winslow by purchase, from Nicholas Goodwyn, in 1697, and caused the present mansion to be built at Winslow. He also carried out extensive repairs in the parish Church. He died in London in 1723-4, leaving three sons, and his body was brought to Winslow for burial.

A contemporary account, under date of 22nd January, 1724, states—"The Chancellor of the Exchequer informs the House of Commons, that the House has lost a very useful Member, and the public as able and honest a servant as ever the Crown had, by the the death of William Lowndes, Esq.

28th January. The corpse of William Lowndes, Esq., was this day carried out of town, to lie in state at his seat at Chesham.

29th January. The funeral procession of the late William Lowndes, Esq., left his seat at Chesham, and proceeded to Winslow, where the body lay in state until late in the evening, when it was interred in the Parish Church, pursuant to his last Will and Testament."

The following Epitaph was composed by some Wit of that period, "On Wm. Lowndes, Esq., Secretary to the Treasury in the reign of Her late Majesty, Queen Ann."

"No *ways* or *means* against the tyrant death,
Could raise *supplies* to aid thy *fund* of breath.
O Lowndes! it is *enacted*, soon or late
Each *branch* of nature must submit to fate;
Each member of that house where thou did'st stand,
Intent on *Credit*, with thy *bill* in hand,
Shall equally this *imposition* bear,
And in his turn be found *deficient* here.
But trust in heav'n, where *surplusses* of joy,
And endless *produce* will all cares destroy;
And may'st thou there, when thy *accounts* are past,
Gain a quietus which shall ever last."

William Lowndes, of Astwood-Bury, Bucks, was the second son of William Lowndes, of Winslow; he held the office of one of the Auditors of the Court of Exchequer, granted him for life in reversion by Queen Ann. He is also described as "co-adjutor with Mr. Secretary Horace Walpole, to the Lord's Commissioners of the Treasury." He died in 1775, in his 88th year, and was buried at Astwood, in which Church there is a Mural Monument to his memory, having on the pediment a bust in high relief, of an aged man in a close-bottomed wig, etc.

(The Astwood-Bury Estate was purchased by the Lowndes' family in October, 1715).

In "Local Occurences," Vol II, 1879, under the date of Dec., 1755, it is stated—"An Act of Parliament has been passed to enable William Lowndes, Esq., to take the name of Stone, in addition to Lowndes." This was a son of the above.

Richard Lowndes, of Winslow,—grandson of "Ways and Means" Lowndes,—was Sheriff of Bucks in 1737-8, and M.P. for the County in 1742 and 1754. His Election Address for the latter year is a pattern of brevity, and no one can complain of its politics.—"To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Buckingham. Being encouraged by the Freeholders in general to offer myself as a Candidate at the ensuing election for this County, I humbly presume to ask the favour of your votes and interest, which will be esteemed the greatest honour conferred on

Gentlemen, your most obliged and obedient Servant,

Winslow. RICHARD LOWNDES."

Mr. Lowndes died at Hillesden in 1775, and was buried at Winslow. He was succeeded by his son, William Lowndes, who assumed the surname of Selby, on inheriting the Whaddon Estate, under the Will of Thomas James Selby, Esq. This William Lowndes Selby died in 1813, and was succeeded by his son William, who also took the name of Selby on the death of his father, but subsequently resumed the name of Lowndes by licence. He was High Sheriff of Bucks in 1823. He was succeeded by his son, William Selby Lowndes, of Whaddon, who died there in 1886; and is buried at Winslow. The present representative of the family being William Selby Lowndes, Esq., his son, of Whaddon Hall. At the present time, (1894), no member of the family resides at Winslow.

FFYGE.—Among the persons whose pedigrees are recorded in the "Visitation of Bucks, 1575 and 1634, (Harlean M.S.S. Brit., Mus.), is that of Fyge, or Ffyge. The family would appear to have sprang from Essex, for we find mention of a Thomas Fyge of Plashey, in 1513, and Peter Fyge of Writtle, (both Villages near Chelmsford), about the same period. The first

mention of them, of which we find local evidence, is in the Church Register of Grandborough, viz :—"Agnes Ffyge, the daughter of Thos. Ffyge, was christened the iv day of August, 1560."

A Monumental Brass in Winslow Church, (which we have elsewhere mentioned) is to the "Memory of Thos. Ffige, gent., who died ye xxi of Novemb., 1578."

The Church Register also mentions Thos. Ffige, sonn of Peter Ffige, gent., buried 17th March, 1592.

1595. Tho., sonne of Peter Fyge, Gent., baptised.
1601. Valentine, son of Peter Fyge, bap.
1603. Peter Fyge and Francis Fyge, bap.
1612. Thos. Egerton married to Mary Fyge.
1657. Wendover Lowndes married to Susan Fyges.

On a monument in the Church (lately destroyed) was a record that "Thos. Fyge, Gent.,—last heir-male of that family—departed this life March ye 19th, 1706." The family are now extinct here.

MAYNE.—This family has long been connected with the Parish, for we find that in the reign of Edward III, (circa. 1360), a John Mayn held lands here, the name is also one of the first to appear upon the Church Register, viz :—

Edward Mayn, buried 22nd Feb., 1566."
Isabella Mayn, wife of Sebn. Mayn, buried 3rd Sept., 1605.
Edward Mayne, buried 9th January, 1651.
Oliver Mayne, married 27th May, 1694.

John Mayne, of Winslow, was married at Grandborough 30th September, 1724.

In 1763, one John Mayne, is described as the owner of a messuage or tenement, and one acre of land in "Shipton Ffield." "Robert Mayne, died March 8th, 1802, aged 38 years," (Gravestone). One of the last known male descendants of this family was living some few years since at the old Stage Waggon Office in Sheep Street, Winslow.

[*Note.* A family of this name were long resident at the neighbouring parish of Hoggeston, from whom "Mayne's Hill Farm" derives its title. There is an Altar Tomb, bearing date 1599, and several monumental slabs in the floor of Hoggeston Church, inscribed to the Mayne family, to which those at Winslow were probably at one period related.

GYLES.—We first find mention of this old Winslow family, or some branch of it in the Parish Register of Grandborough, where there is an entry of the marriage of Richard Giles in 1581, also of "Benedict Gyles, the *sonne* of Richard Gyles, was christened the xxi day of Aprill, 1585."

William Gyles and Alice Brodcroft were married the 26th day of Sept., 1611.

The name of W. Gyles appears upon the Sanctus Bell at Winslow in 1611; and in 1666, William Giles issued "His Halfpeny." In 1696, Wm. Gyles, the elder, and Daniel Gyles, his son, surrendered the Baptist Chapel at Pillars Ditch, to certain trustees in connection with the Baptist body, to whom they probably then belonged; for we find in the Church Register the following very peculiar entries.—"1713, April 21st, buried, William Gyles, *Anti-christian Baptist;*" and on the 2nd Nov. in the same year, another William Gyles, (probably the son), was buried, and he also is designated an "*Anti-christian Baptist.*"

As we have elsewhere mentioned, several members of the family were buried within the Baptist Chapel, where their monumental slabs may still be found; and up to 1884, several gravestones bearing the name were standing at the east end of the Church, but are now laid down as pavement round the Church; the only inscriptions now decipherable being the following—"Here lyeth the body of Mrs. Beatriss Gyles, wife of Mr. Daniel Gyles, who departed this life ye 7th of April, 1714, in the 56th year of her age."

"In Memory of Georgiana, wife of Mr. Samuel Gyles, who died May 28th, 1736, aged 36 years."

This family are now extinct in Winslow; but the *name* survives in the adjoining parish of East Claydon.

DEVERELL, OR DEVERALL.—This was probably a branch of a more influential family of that name long resident in the adjacent parish of Swanbourne. "John Deverell, by his Will dated 27th Feb., 1543, gives 20 shillings to buy things necessary for the Church of Swanbourne, at the discretion of Master Edmund Cooper, the Vicar thereof." A Matthew Deverell was one of the High Constables of Cotslow Hundred in 1598. At Great Horwood we find Elizabeth Deverell, bap., 4th Sept., 1600. In the Survey of Bucks, 1620, mention is made of William Deverell and Matthew Deverell of Swanbourne, Mr. Deverell of Hogson, and Matthew Deverell of Stewkley.

At the commencement of the first Church Register at Winslow, the name frequently appears, viz:—

George Deverall was baptised, Maii, 1576.
Matthew Deverell, baptised 17th August, 1589.
John Deverall, baptised 1st May, 1592.

Other entries frequently occur in the Register during the following century. The name of John Deverall, Ironmonger, appears as a member of the Church choir in 1755; and in an Agreement dated 23rd January, 1779, we find a Matthew Deverell of Winslow, Yeoman, and Ann his wife, agreed to sell certain lands at Steeple Claydon, for £300.

In the Winslow Court Rolls, 1782, we find a John Deverell, Grocer. Probably the last male of the Winslow family was

William Deverall, of Shipton, who was in very humble circumstances, and whose only record is that he was buried 6th June, 1844, aged 78.

Browne Willis relates—"The most remarkable story I have been informed of from this parish (East Claydon), is that of one, Deverall, an olde man—a Quaker,—who, falling into a ditch, about forty years ago, refused to be helped out again by the neighbours, whom he presumptuously told he should rise again the 3rd day, and with great vehemence opposed their assisting him, insomuch that he continued till they forcibly drew him out." Browne Willis adds—this from Mr. Green. Francis Green was Vicar at that time, (1680).

GODWYN, OR GOODWYN.—A family bearing this old Buckinghamshire name were at one time resident here; for entries relating to them occasionally occur in the Church Register during the 16th and 17th centuries.

The name of John Godwyn appears upon the third bell, as being one of the Churchwardens at Winslow in 1670. About this time a "Tradesmen's Token" was issued, bearing the inscription "Thomas Godwin of Winslow; his Half-penny." The name of Thoma Godwyn is engraved upon the Communion Plate as Churchwarden in 1686; and the Church Register records the marriage of Philip Egerton to Mary Godwin in 1707. This family is now extinct in Winslow.

GYBBES, OR GIBBS.—Perhaps no name appears so frequently in the Parish Records and Winslow Manor Rolls, during the 16th and 17th centuries, as that of Gybbs. Some members of the family were also settled at the adjoining parish of Grandborough, where the name frequently appears; and as far back as these records extend, they are spoken of as sturdy yeomen, occupying their own snug homesteads and fertile lands, while others were thriving tradesmen, who in their turn were called upon to occupy various offices in connection with parish affairs.

"Robert Gybbes, the sonne of Edward Gybbes, was christened the xxvii of June, 1590." "Edward Gybbes and Joan Fessie, (widow), were married the xii day of May, 1601."

During the 17th century, the entries of Marriages and Deaths in the Church Register are too numerous to mention. In 1681 and following years, many members of the family are duly certified as having been buried in Woollen, according to law.

At a parish Vestry held on the 20th April, 1693, the name of Robert Gybbs appears, and again in 1695. In 1703 and 1709, Robert Gybbs, with Peter Lowndes, was appointed Overseer of the poor of the parish of Winslow.

In 1705 we find that "Richard Gybbs and Jane Kirby, both of Winslowe, were married at Granborough." And on the 29th Nov., 1708, there is another entry that "Thomas Gybbs of Winselowe, and Ellinor Sutton" were married there.

Again in 1715, a Richard Gybbs is mentioned as one of the Overseers of the Poor; and this office was frequently filled by members of the family in subsequent years, and the name of John Gibbs appears upon the 6th bell as being Churchwarden in 1777.

Until within the last few years, a long row of gravestones opposite the western door of the Church marked the burial place of many members of the family; but most of these have disappeared; the only ones now remaining being those of "John Gibbs, who died 25th May, 1752," and "Kezia Gibbs, relict of John Gibbs, who died Feb. 2nd, 1762, aged 62 years." Another nearly illegible, is in memory of Stephen Gibbs, who died Aug. 4th, 1770, aged 60 years.

Some of the family are interred in the burial ground of the old Baptist Chapel, as we elsewhere mentioned.

In a manuscript book relating to the Winslow Church Choir, extending over a period of 95 years, viz:—from 1755 to 1849, we find many entries relating to the Gibbs' family as members of the Choir. In the year 1755, the names occur of John Gibbs, Malster; Stephen Gibbs, Glover; and Robert Gibbs, Malster; at that time there is also an entry relating to the celebrated family of bellringers, as follows,—"It is a remarkable circumstance, that six brothers named Gibbs were constant ringers on the New Year's Day, from the year 1747, up to the period when Mr. John Gibbs and five other brothers succeeded them, and who continued to ring in like manner on New Years' Day. The two generations completed 70 years in this annual performance. The following are the names of the last six brothers, ringers, who annually supped at Mr. Lowndes' (the Squire of the Parish) on the first night of the New Year,—Thomas Gibbs, Farmer; Robert Gibbs, Malster; Stephen Gibbs, Butcher; William Gibbs, Glover; Richard Gibbs, Currier; and John Gibbs, Malster.

A subsequent entry relating to the last-named John Gibbs, states that he was remarkable for minute hand-writing, having written the "Belief" in the compass of a sixpence, and the Lord's Prayer in the compass of a silver penny, which writing was (in 1832) in the possession of his daughter, Mrs. Hall. Of his musical abilities he is also spoken of in the most laudatory terms—"The manuscript works of Mr. John Gibbs are now greatly diminished, but sufficient remain to show how great was his skill in execution, how choice his selection, and how indefatigable his perseverance and application; his science as a musician was justly allowed, and his performances in the choir were duly admired and acknowledged, not only by his brother choristers, but by those of the congregation who had ears fitted for the reception of those sounds so essential to render sacred music a fit and proper part of Divine Worship."

In the "Whitehall Evening Post" of November, 1754, there appeared a paragraph relating to these notable bellringers, stating that "Robert Gibbs of Winslow, in the County of Bucks, had six sons, viz :—Robert, Richard, William, Thomas, John, and Stephen, which sons rang the bells of Winslow Church on New Years' Day for forty years in succession. The senior son rang the tenor, and every son had his bell, in right of seniority; and they were every New Years' Day entertained at dinner by the worthy family of Lowndes, at Winslow."

At the north-east end of the Churchyard, near the new Chancel Aisle, is a sunken gravestone, now nearly illegible, which still marks the spot where the parents of the first-named six brothers Gibbs (ringers), lie interred,—

"In Memory of Robert Gibbs,
who departed this life
May 4th, 1742, aged 68 years.
Also of Sarah, relict
of the above
Robert Gibbs,
who died March 9th, 1760,
in the 81st year of her age."

In Keach's Chapel-yard was buried April 3rd, 1826, a Mr. John Gibbs, aged 82 years. He had a numerous family; one of his sons—Robert—removed to Aylesbury about 1790, where he died in 1808, his body being brought to Winslow, and interred in the Chapel-yard. One of Robert's sons—John—established a successful business in Aylesbury as a printer, etc., and another—Richard—migrated to St. Albans, where his descendants now occupy an influential position as proprietors of "The Herts Advertiser and St. Albans Times." To one member of this firm, Arthur Ernest Gibbs, Esq., the present writer offers his most grateful acknowledgments for transcripts of many ancient documents relating to Winslow.

The late Robert Gibbs, Esq., F.S.A., of Aylesbury, the well-known journalist, local historian and antiquary, was proud to claim that his progenitors were men of Winslow.

Other branches of this ancient family are scattered far and wide, and the name still flourishes in Winslow.

The Chapels.

Keach's Meeting House.

This humble little Baptist Chapel is probably the oldest existing Nonconformist place of worship in the county. Sheahan in his "History of Bucks" 1862, gives the date of its erection as 1625. We have not been able to verify this statement, but it appears to have been used as a chapel at the time of the Commonwealth.

It is situate in a most secluded spot at the bottom of a narrow alley leading out of the Market Square, that was formerly known as "George Alley" or Pillars Ditch.

This obscure position was doubtless chosen so as to obtain some security and freedom from interruption and persecution; for these were very troubulous times to those who presumed to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience, or in any other manner than that which the State had appointed.

The building is a very homely brick and tiled structure with its original small lattice windows remaining on the north side, and having a very quaint little porch, (now disused), bearing the initials of William and Mary Gyles, (W.M.G.), and the date 1695, when the porch was added to the original building.

This porch opens into a little burial ground, evidently containing the remains of generations of former worshippers.

Mr. Robert Gibbs in his "History of Aylesbury," says, "a few of the old-fashioned Nonconformist Meeting Houses still exist in the neighbourhood, and must be interesting objects to Nonconformists of the present day. Benjamin Keach's Meeting House is still standing at Winslow, and it is one of the few remaining ancient Puritan places of worship in an original state. The isolated situation of this building was probably not accidental, but selected for the personal safety of those who worshipped there. We cannot in the present state of religious freedom picture in our minds the dangers attendant on worshipping God in a conventicle two centuries ago."

The privacy of these more ancient Meeting houses served a good purpose, for harmless Nonconformists were frequently hunted about as though they were pernicious vermin. It was requisite for them to take every measure to conceal their intentions as to their meetings; they assembled in small numbers; often shifted from place to place; met late in the evenings, or early in the mornings; when their dwellings joined, they made windows or holes in the walls, that the preacher's voice might be heard in two or three houses; they sometimes had private passages from one house to another, and trap doors for the escape of the minister, who was obliged to dress in disguise except when discharging his office. In country towns and villages the ministers were admitted through back-yards and gardens into the places of meeting, to avoid the observation of neighbours and passers by; for the same reason they never sang praises in their devotions, and the preacher was placed in such an inward part the building that his voice might not be heard in the public streets; the doors were always kept locked, and a sentinel placed near to give alarm. Notwithstanding all these precautions, spies and false brethren crept in amongst them, their assemblies were frequently interrupted, and great sums were frequently extorted from them by fines, or in default long periods of imprisonment followed. This state of affairs explains why Winslow, and many of the old Nonconformist Meeting Houses are frequently met with in such isolated and secluded situations."

The following extract from the Act of Uniformity of 1662, will show one of the disabilities under which the Nonconformists laboured in those days; not only were they prohibited from holding religious services, but their children were not allowed to be taught except by a person duly licensed by the Clerical Authorities; it enacts:—"And if any schoolmaster, or other person instructing or teaching youth in any private house or family as a teacher or schoolmaster, shall instruct or teach any youth as a teacher or schoolmaster, before licence obtained from his respective Archbishop, Bishop, or Ordinary of the Diocese, and before subscription made .....he shall for the first offence suffer three month's imprisonment without bail or mainprise."

The interior of this little Chapel is partly paved with memorial stones, relating to former friends of this Baptist Cause, who—as one of the inscriptions quaintly puts it—have "passed into the eternal world."

As the names inscribed upon some of these stones are, in several instances nearly obliterated, we gladly record them here.

"Grace Aldridge, daughter of Thomas and Grace Aldridge, departed this life March ye 22nd, 1726."

"Sarah Gyles, relict of William Gyles, daughter of Benjamin Morley, gent., deceased Sept. ye 6th, 1726, aged 71 years."

"Martha, the relict of Thomas Burch, and daughter of Samuel Norman, died August 29th, 1731, aged 36 years."

"Sarah, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Foster, died April 14th, 1728; and Dick their son, who passed into the eternal world April 14th, 1737."

"Mary Gyles, late wife of Daniel Gyles, senior, died August ye 15th, 1734, aged 58 years. Also Frances Collier, her sister, deceased Nov. ye 6th, 1734, aged 48 years."

"Mr. Samuel Norman, died Nov. 22nd, 1735, aged 76 years; and likewise Mrs. Martha Norman, died Nov. 2nd, 1742, aged 79 years."

"Mr. Daniel Gyles, senior, died April 5th, 1747, aged 74 years."

A Stone in the Chapel-yard is inscribed—

"In Memorial of
DINAH DELAFIELD,
who died March 25th, 1775,
aged 73 years.
Also of SARAH, her sister,
who died June 8th, 1775, aged 68 years."

The Chapel Books contain the names of some thirty persons buried in the Chapel and grave-yard during the present century, among which are the following:—

"Robert Gibbs, of Castle Street, Aylesbury, the son of Mr. John Gibbs of the parish of Winslow, was buried at our Dissenting Meeting House on the 5th day of April, 1808."

"Thomas Dawney, son of Thomas Dawney of the parish of Aylesbury, Bucks, was buried at our Dissenting Meeting House on the 5th day of April, 1815, aged 43 years."

"Mary Ludgett was buried Jan. 9th 1817, aged 64 years."

"Sarah Lomath was buried Mar. 13th, 1821, aged 72 years."

"Henry George, husband of Mary George, was buried Feb. 15th, 1826, aged 50 years."

"Mary George, (wife of above) was buried May 19th, 1826, aged 50 years."

"John Gibbs was buried April 3rd, 1826, aged 82 years."

"Mary, wife of John Gibbs, was buried March 27th, 1828, aged 89 years."

"William Lomath, the husband of Mary Lomath, was buried July 28th, 1830, aged — years."

"William Matthews, for many years Deacon of this place of worship, died May 19th, 1860, aged 73."

"Phillis Cox, died January 28th, 1868, aged 81."

"Joseph Bowden, died March 22nd, 1867, aged 62 years. He was buried in our Chapel grave-yard."

This Chapel Book also contains some quaint entries respecting the rite of Baptism.

"On the 28th June, 1807, Mr. Davies, of Waddesdon, baptised by immersion in Great Horwood Brook, William Foscott, Mary Gibbs, and Sarah Davis; and on the 16th August following, he likewise baptised William Anstee and Phillis Cox at the same spot.

[At that period the spot would be a mile from any dwelling-house, at which they could exchange their wet clothing."]

The building derives its name of Keach's Chapel from a celebrated Baptist preacher of that name.

He was a native of Stoke Hammond, Bucks, who, having married a resident of Winslow named Jane Grove, a member of the congregation, was himself chosen pastor of this little Baptist cause, in the year 1660.

He seems to have been a person of good abilities, a powerful preacher, and in after years a voluminous writer, and a poet of considerable merit for the time, but the works for which he is chiefly noted, are "A Key to open Scripture Metaphors" and "An Exposition of all the Parables," both of which works have passed through many editions.

(An excellent portrait of Keach appears as a frontispiece to the last-named work, published in 1701).

He had only been settled a short time at Winslow before he was called upon to endure persecution and to suffer for conscience sake. And his name is yet kept in remembrance for the courageous manner in which he asserted the right of liberty of conscience, of freedom to worship God, and to bear witness for Christ and His cause, without fear of any man.

In one of his printed works the following lines occur, which may fairly be applied to himself:—

> "Ever this martyr bore an upright mind
> Unto his Prince, and ever was inclined
> In all just things obedient for to be,
> Yet did stand up for Christ, His Sov'reignty;
> And was resolved in matters of his faith,
> To worship God as Holy Scripture saith—."

It was just about the time that Keach settled at Winslow, that Cromwell passed away, the Stuarts were restored, and the country was blessed with an unspeakable mercy, as the Book of Common Prayer expressed it, by the restoration to the throne of that "most religious and gracious Sovereign," King Charles the Second, who by a public proclamation accorded to his loving subjects "the public and free profession of true Religion and Worship." And thereupon this little body of Nonconformists at Winslow again ventured to hold public service in their humble Meeting House at "Pillars Ditch," but they soon found to their cost that the true religion and worship spoken of did not apply to them, but was only meant for those who held the doctrines of the Church of England; and in direct violation of the King's

solemn promise to allow freedom of conscience in religious matters, the Authorities soon showed their determination to suppress any and every meeting of Dissenters, for they at once commenced to persecute them. An old Act of Queen Elizabeth was revived, which decreed that all who refused to attend Church should be fined £20 a month; and under this Act great numbers were seized and cast into prison. It is estimated that during the reign of this, the most dissolute and profligate monarch that ever sat on the English throne, that upwards of 8,000 Dissenters died in prison. This state of things continued until the "Declaration of Indulgence" in the year 1672. (This indulgence was cancelled in 1678, and the persecution renewed).

In 1664, Keach published a little book called "The Child's Instructor; or a new and easie Primer," in which he used arguments against the doctrine and practice of infant baptism; for this so-called crime he was arrested and tried at the Aylesbury Assizes, October 8th, 1664, before Lord Chief Justice Hyde; the Indictment being in substance as follows:—

"Thou art here indicted by the name of Benjamin Keach, of Winslow, in the County of Buckinghamshire, for that thou being a seditious, heritical and schismatical person, evilly and maliciously disposed, and disaffected to His Majesty's government of the Church of England, didst maliciously and wickedly, on the first day of May, in the 16th year of our Sovereign Lord the King, write, print, and publish one seditious and venomous book entitled "The Child's Instructor," wherein are contained by way of question and answer, these damnable positions [against infant baptism], contrary to the Book of Common Prayer and the Liturgy of the Church of England."

Of this crime (?) he was duly convicted and sentenced as follows:—

"Benjamin Keach, you are here convicted for writing, printing and publishing a seditious and schismatical book, for which the Court's judgment is this,—'That you shall go to jail for a fortnight without bail or mainprize, and on the next Saturday shall stand in the pillory at Aylesbury in the open market, for the space of two hours, from eleven of the clock till one, with a paper upon your head with this inscription "For writing, printing and publishing a schismatical book entitled 'The Child's Instructor.' And the next Thursday to stand in the same manner and for the same time in the Market of Winslow, and there your book shall be openly burnt before your face by the common hangman, in disgrace of you and your doctrine; and you shall forfeit to the King's Majesty the sum of £20, and shall remain in prison until you shall find sureties for your future good behaviour."

On one occasion when Keach was preaching at Winslow, the Authorities surrounded the little Meeting House and seized

him with great violence, and swore they would kill him; and after treating him with great indignity, they tied him across a horse, behind one of the troopers, and so conveyed him to prison at Aylesbury; his offence on this occasion was that of—"Having at diver's times, in contempt of His Maj'ties good Lawes, preached or teached at a Conventicle under color or p'tence of the exercise of religion in other manner than according to the Liturgie or practiss of the Church of England."

Finding that he was not likely to enjoy any quiet settlement in Winslow, he removed to London in the year 1668, where he was ordained pastor of a small Baptist congregation, and with that people he remained till his death in 1704.

Strong efforts were still made by the Authorities to repress Nonconformity, the continued prevalence of which was viewed with alarm. About this time the Lord Lieutenant of Bucks—the Earl of Bridgwater—who was a most bigoted Churchman, showed himself most intolerant of Dissenters, and Aylesbury Gaol was filled to overflowing with his victims. The Church clergy were mostly very bitter against them, acting as informants, and frequently causing their little meetings for worship to be broken up and dispersed; in fact it was the Rector of Stoke Hammond, Thomas Disney, who was the first to give information against Keach for printing his Child's Primer, and caused his arrest. He had been presented to that living under the Commonwealth, and had conformed at the Restoration.

In the Tenison M.S.S. at Lambeth Palace are certain returns described as "An account of the Conventicles in the Lincoln, London, and other Dioceses, 1669."

At this time Archbishop Sheldon appears to have been very uneasy at the growth of Dissent. He accordingly wrote to his suffragan Bishops, making enquiry as to the number and strength of the Anabaptists, Papists, and other Nonconformists in their several districts. In these returns we find some interesting particulars relating to Winslow and neighbourhood. The information furnished is arranged under the several headings of "Parish or Township," "No. and description of Conventicles," "Sect, numbers attending, their qualitie, with their heads or teachers." They are often described as few in numbers, decreasing, "meane people, but such as say they value not his Majesty's clemency one pin; of meane quality" etc.

Although these Nonconformists were "few in numbers" and of such "meane quality," they were evidently "a thorne in the flesh" of the Bishops and Archbishop at that time.

Winslow and Grandborough were at this time in the Diocese of London.

"Winslow, in Bucks. At the houses of Eliot, a carpenter, and ffoster, a baker; John Holland of Greenborough, and at

North Marston and Oving monthly, by turnes. Sect : Anabaptists ; number : 40 ; teacher : Hartnell, a thatcher of North Marston."

This assembly was Benjamin Keach's little hunted persecuted Church, and John Hartnell appears to have been his successor. The report is not very clear, but possibly means that they met at one of the several places on each of the Sundays of the month. One Sunday they appear to have met at the house of Mr. Foster at Winslow, on another Sunday the little flock gathered for worship at John Holland's house at Grandborough, and no doubt in other places as occasion offered.

The family of Elliott were in a comfortable position, and long resident at Shipton ; as we have elsewhere shown, John Elliott and George Elliott were owners of land in that hamlet in 1743. There is a stone in the old Baptist Chapel to the memory of Sarah, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Foster, who died in 1728, and Dick their son, who died in 1737. (The name was frequently spelt Forster) There is a tradition that Thomas Forster was pastor of Keach's Chapel in the early part of the 18th century.

We further gather from the Lincoln Diocese return, that about twenty of this little body "of meane qualitie" met at the house of William Howes, a yeoman of Oving, and listened to his teachings, and those of John Hartnell ; the latter in his turn received them at his house at North Marston, when about 30 or 40—again described as of "meane quality"—gathered, and he and William Howes, and sometimes John Montague of Waddesdon, gave them "a word of exhortation." We also find mention of John Hartnell in connection with the cause at Swanbourne, where about 20 "meane people" met at the house of George Dener (?) a yeoman, and were addressed by Hartnell, and by "William Giles (of Winslow), a Shopkeeper."

From these returns, and from letters in the Record Office, we learn that Benjamin Keach was originally a tailor ; he was—as we have said—a native of Stoke Hammond ; he was baptised by a Mr. John Russell, (probably of Berkhampstead). His brother Henry was a miller, occupying Stableford Mill at Soulbury, where we find meetings were held as late as 1669, and Joseph Keach, bricklayer, perhaps another brother, was one of those that preached there.

There is an entry in the retnrns, stating that—"At Soulbury near Linslade, some Anabaptists meet at the house of Henry Keetch, where sometimes as many as a 100 "all meane" assemble to hear Joseph Keetch, a bricklayer, Thomas Mead, a blacksmyth, and one John Hall."

This is an interesting entry, because Soulbury is close to Benjamin Keach's native village. It was at one of these meetings in this retired water mill on the river Ouzel, about a mile from

the Village of Soulbury, that John Griffith and Jonathan Jennings, wellknown names among the general Baptists, were arrested and committed to Aylesbury Gaol, where Benjamin Keach was then a prisoner. Friends tried to get them released, but the Earl of Bridgwater interposed, and they remained in prison; this seems to have been in 1666.

After the passing of the Toleration Act in 1689, Nonconformists were able to assemble for worship with a certain degree of freedom; and the Baptist cause at Winslow seems to have prospered, and its numbers to have increased.

In 1696, Benjamin Morley appears to have been the pastor; mention is also made of Thomas Forster, but the Church does not appear to have had any stated minister for many years, the pulpit being supplied by ministers of other Baptist Churches, and friends from the surrounding parishes.

In 1696, William Gyles the elder, of Winslow, and Daniel Gyles, his son, who were the owners of the Baptist Meeting House, surrendered the same to charitable uses, as the Trust Deed expresses it, and vested it in the names of the following Trustees:—William Gyles the younger, Joseph Harding, Samuel Norman, and Thomas Dooley, all of Winslow.

As we have elsewhere shown, the family of Gyles long occupied a good position in Winslow; they appear to have been strong adherents and supporters of the Baptist cause, as were also the family of Gibbs in after years.

A sermon is extant which was preached here by a Mr. D. Beck on the 29th November, 1741, "Being a day set apart for a solemn fast, to implore the Divine protection and defence, on account of the war with Spain," the text being Proverbs xiv, verse 34,—"Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people," in which the preacher showed the strongest loyalty to his King and Country.

In the Winslow Manor Rolls 29th October, 1747, there is an entry relating to the Chapel.—"The fine for admittance to the Meeting House at Pillars Ditch, five shillings, and heriot for the same, one shilling." From this entry it would appear that new trustees were then appointed.

About 1770, a Mr. Hall was settled as pastor here; he occupied a house adjoining the Chapel burial ground, (now a warehouse), but the doorway into the Chapel yard can still be seen. In 1777 he gave up his office, and after he had resigned, no settled minister seems to have been appointed for many years, the services being again conducted by Baptist ministers from other places.

In November, 1809, Mr. George Dormer of Oving, became pastor, and so continued until April 5th, 1812, when he resigned, and since which time Mr. Ludgate, Mr. Collett, and other ministers have occupied the pulpit; but during the last few years

there has been no settled minister, the services being generally conducted by members of the denomination, or ministers from a distance.

Until comparitively recent years, this cause was assisted by a small ancient endowment, consisting of a rent charge in Oxfordshire, but this is now lost.

From the Chapel accounts we learn that in October, 1821, the building underwent a thorough repair. "The roof was stript, new lathed and retiled, the large oak beam which went across the Meeting House was taken out and converted into several other purposes, such as the posts which are on the sides of the meeting, the window linings, the pulpit stairs, back to table pew, and a box to put the books in."

"October 18th, 1824, was put in the two new windows over the pulpit.

August, 1827. An increase in the congregation rendered it necessary for us to build a temporary gallery, and take in the porch. A new doorway being opened at the east end of the Chapel. [This objectional feature has considerably altered the original arrangement of the interior of the building; the quaint little porch being now utilised as a receptacle for coal, brooms, etc.]

Another memorandum states that in October, 1828, "Our Meeting House was invested in the hands of fresh Trusts,—Wm. Matthews, Wm. Anstee and Thos. Andrews—the expence was £12."

Amidst all changes, (and until recent years, with much interruption and annoyance), Divine Service has continued to be held in this venerable little Meeting House from week to week, up to the present date.

Congregational Chapel.

In the year 1800, the Independents commenced holding services in Winslow, having the use of the Baptist Chapel on alternate Sundays, but in this they do not appear to have been in any way antagonistic to the Established Church, for we find that at a meeting of Independent Ministers at Winslow, Nov. 17th, 1800, they resolved—"As a worthy Clergyman (Mr. Bannister), preaches in this town, it was agreed that for the future the society should not assemble in Church hours on the Lord's Day, but at 7 o'clock in the morning, from 2 to 3 in the afternoon, and at 6 in the evening."

As the congregation increased, the Independents became desirous of possessing a Chapel of their own; so we find that "On Wednesday, 10th April, 1816, a building, which was originally a barn, situate in Horn Street, having been purchased of Mr. Edmund Cox, and considerably altered, was opened as an Independent Chapel."

The following account of the building and of the opening services is taken from the Evangelical Magazine for August, 1816,—"April 10th. A neat Chapel, capable of seating about 250 persons, was opened at Winslow, Bucks. In the morning, Mr. Harrison of Wooburn, Bucks, preached ; in the afternoon, Mr. D. W. Aston, of Buckingham, and in the evening, Mr. Bull of Newport Pagnell also preached. The students from Mr. Bull's Academy having preached in this town for some time past, and the place in which they held the services being found much too small for the congregation, this building has been purchased and fitted up at the expense of £300."

After the students from Newport Academy had continued their services for about three months in the new Chapel, it was decided to appoint one of their number—Mr. John Wilson—to be stated pastor, which duties he commenced June 30th, 1816.

It would seem that even in those days our Independent friends were rather aspiring, for this "neat building" did not long suffice, it being pulled down and replaced by a more pretentious structure in 1829, of which the following account is given in the Evangelical Magazine for 1830.—

"A neat and commodious new Independent Chapel, with school-room and vestry, capable of containing upwards of 300 persons, was opened for Divine Service at Winslow, on Tuesday, May 4th, 1830. The Chapel is vested in trustees, and built upon the most economical plan ; the cost being about £600."

This new building principally owed its erection to the Rev. Joseph Denton, the then pastor, by whom most of the cost was raised.

After having served its purpose for more than fifty years, this Chapel was also pulled down in 1884 to make room for another edifice.

The following is a list of Ministers who have held the pastorate :—Revs. John Wilson, 1816 to 1824 ; Samuel Barrows, 1824 to 1829 ; Joseph Denton, 1829 to 1840 ; George Hinde, 1841 to 1847 ; Thomas Bardsley Attenborough, 1848 to 1856 ; John Fogg, 1857 to 1861 ; W. S. Rae, 1863 to 1867 ; John Riordan, 1881 to 1888. The present pastor being the Rev. J. Pither.

The new Congregational Church was erected in 1884, on the site of the older building in Horn Street. The design is based on the lines of the smaller English Country Parish Churches of the fifteenth century. The prominent feature is the tower, 58 feet in height, in the upper part of which is a commodious room 17 feet square, lighted by seven windows, and used as a Sunday School Class-room. This is a peculiar feature of the building ; the idea being taken from the Watchman's Tower at Irthlingborough Church, Northants. The building is lighted with Gothic windows, filled with Cathedral toned glass ; the principal one in

the tower is very handsome, its dimensions being about 16 feet broad by 18 high, said to be a reduced copy of a celebrated one in York Minster. The building is both artistic and comfortable, and is in marked contrast to the plain and somewhat unsightly structure that it has superseded. It is designed to seat 240 persons on the ground floor, and 82 in the gallery. The total cost of its erection, with the adjoining School-room, being about £2,300. It was first opened for Divine Service on the 20th January, 1885.

The Baptist Tabernacle.

In 1863, an effort was made by some of the townspeople to establish a General Baptist Cause, and a preaching room was opened by them in the High Street. A piece of ground was then purchased in the Buckingham Road, and on May 7th, 1864, the foundation stone of the present building was laid, the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon preaching in a tent on the site. On the 15th September following the Tabernacle was opened for worship, the cost being £744. The Rev. R. Sole was the first Pastor of the Church. In 1880, it being found necessary to have larger school accommodation, the Centenary Hall was erected (mainly through the exertions of the Rev. F. J. Feltham), at a cost of £475.

The Schools.

The first School at Winslow of which we can find any mention, was held in a building (still standing), situate in "Pillory Ditch," now called Cowley's Walk.

In Beachampton Churchyard, on the south side, is an Altar Tomb, bearing the following inscription to the memory of one, who might be called the Founder of the Boys' School at Winslow :—"In Memory of Joseph Rogers, of Winslow, Currier, who died January 9th, 1722, in the 48th year of his age.

"He hath raised himself a monument, more durable than this marble, by giving £600 to be laid out in land, the rents and profits of which he hath ordered to be applied yearly for ever, towards educating and instructing in learning the children of *Poor People* in the parish of Winslow.

"Proverbs, ch. iv, verses 7 and 13; Proverbs, ch. xix, verse 17, and Psalm cxii, verse 9.

"He gave likewise for the use of the Communion Service of the Parish Church of Winslow, one Silver Salver of five pounds value."

In Lewis's Topographical Dictionary, 1831, mention is made of a bequest by some unknown donor of £27 10s. to the Charity School at *Hanging Style*, Winslow.

The following application for a Licence to act as a Schoolmaster by an inhabitant of Winslow, is copied from the original manuscript kept in St. Alban's Abbey. It is not dated, but bears internal evidence of having been made about 1680.

"To the right reverend father in God, the Lord Bishop of London, and to the reverend the Arch-Deacon of the diocery of St. Albanes.

"Wee, whose names are here under written, doe humbly certifie that Richard Ginger, of Winslow, in the County of Bucks, is a man of such sober life & conversation, and soe well principalled in the principalls of the Protestant Religion, both in resorting to the Church, and in hearing Devine Service, and a man wee humbly conceive fitt to teach and instruct children, and therefore wee humbly request and desire that hee may have Licence to teache Schoole in the parrish of Winslow in the aforesayd County of Bucks, beeing the parrish wherein we inhabit and dwell."

(Signed), John Gardiner, Rector of Mursley ; Rodger Hitchcocke, Minister, [of Abbots Aston] ; Silvester Cleaver, George Norris, Churchwardens now being ; John Norman, Constable ; John Hogson, Overseer now being, and 50 other inhabitants of Winslow.

"These are to certify whom it may concern, that Thomas Pitkin, of little Harwood, in the County of Bucks, is a person of a sober life and conversation, and in all things conformable to ye Doctrine and Discipline of ye Church of England, and very well fitt and qualified to teach *and* English Schoole, but no otherwise."

Witness our hands this 20th day of September, 1687—Joh. Croft, A.M., Vicar, Winslow; Tho. Ridyard, Anthony Godwin, Edward Markham, Joseph Cox, Richard Barton, Stephen Bigg, [Winslow], Henry Pitkin, Thomas Oakley, [Little Horwood]."

The following Declaration was required to be made as a consideration of a licence to teach school.—

"I do declare that it is not lawfull upon any pretense whatsoever, to take Armes ag'st the King; and that I do abhor that traiterous position of takeing Armes by his authority against his person, or ag'st those that are commissioned by him, and that I will conforme to the Liturgy of ye Church of England, as it is now by Law Established." (Paper dated August 17th, 1687. Signed, Thos. Ridyard).

As we have elsewhere mentioned, there is a gravestone on the south side of the Churchyard to the memory of Mr. Thomas Rawbone, "Sixty years master of the Free School in this town," who died in 1836.

The present Boys' School, situate in the High Street, was erected in 1841, and is of a very unpretentious character, having no class-rooms, and is in every way inferior to the schools now so generally to be found, even in small country villages.

Infant School. In 1843, Miss Bridget Yeates, of Winslow, conveyed to certain trustees a cottage or tenement, situate on the south side of the Churchyard,—"To be applied and used for a school for poor infant children, of and in the parish of Winslow, not exceeding eight years of age, and for the residence of the mistress of the said School, *and for no other purpose whatever*." She also, at her decease, left a small endowment towards the support of the School.

After the passing of the Elementary Education Act, the adjoining cottage property was purchased and the school enlarged by public subscription, so that there is now accommodation for about 150 children, whose only playground is the adjoining Churchyard.

The Girls' School in Church Street was erected in 1865 by public subscription, and is a better class of building, but owing to the cramped and limited site upon which it is built, it has neither class-rooms or playground for the children, in accordance with modern requirements.

Charities and Benefactions.

In all ages men have shown a desire to create for themselves some memorial, or to perform some meritorious act, whereby their names might be handed down to posterity and their memories so kept from utter oblivion. Various have been the methods by which they have striven to accomplish this object, a favourite mode being that of a charitable bequest to the poor. Generally this has been done with a pure motive, in others it has only been an effort to obtain a place in the list of benefactors of their native town at a very cheap rate; as an instance of the latter we may call attention to the bequest, now lost, of William Hardwicke of Winslow, who died in 1612.

"Memorandum.—One William Hardwicke at the time of his death, bequeathed ye summe of five pounds in such manner that the Churchwardens yearly for the time being, would see the same put forth to the best use, and the interest thereof to be distributed yearly among the poor of this parish. And the said summe of five pounds was delivered by the executors of the said William Hardwicke, into the hands of the Churchwardens, the first day of May, Anno Dni, 1612."

Joan Forde, by her Will dated in 1644, bequeathed the sum of £100 to purchase land for the benefit of the poor of Winslow. This old enclosure was exchanged in 1767 by the Enclosure Commissioners, for the present field, now called "The Poor's Allotment." The said Joan Forde also left a large silver salver for the use of the Parish Church.

Thomas Bishopp's Charity. Nothing is known when this small charity was bequeathed. It now consists of 1a. 1r. 35p. of land, lying in the Poor's Allotment Field.

Lord Wharton's Charity. Philip Lord Wharton, by a Deed dated 12th July, 1692, gave certain lands in the County of York for the purpose of distributing annually 1000 Bibles, with the singing Psalms bound up therewith, and 1050 Catechisms, entitled "The Grounds and Principles of the Christian Religion, with proofs thereof out of the Scriptures."

The children receiving Bibles and Catechisms were subsequently to be examined as to the proficiency they had made in learning and reading the same, and as a reward, to one child out of ten who had made the greatest proficiency, one book entitled "A Sure Guide to Heaven" by Joseph Alleyne, and one book entitled "The Principles of the Christian Religion" by Thomas Lye, A.M., were to be given.

One cannot fail to infer from the Catechisms and Books directed by Lord Wharton to be given as rewards, that the benefit was primarily intended for Nonconformists; indeed he himself was a Presbyterian.

Joseph Alleine was ejected from the living of St. Mary Magdalene, Taunton, 1663, and suffered imprisonment for his Nonconformity. Thomas Lye, A.M. was also ejected in 1662, under the Act of Uniformity.

Ten of these Bibles and Catechisms were directed to be given away at Winslow. These Bibles are yet duly distributed, but the Book of Common Prayer has long been substituted for "The Assemblies Catechism," and other books named.

In 1722, Mrs. Sarah Egerton gave two houses to the poor of Winslow. In the Parliamentary Returns of 1786, these houses are mentioned as producing £5 a year, but it is not stated for whose benefit the money was applied. An account of certain outgoings payable in respect of these houses, appears by the Churchwardens Books to have been allowed to the tenants out of their rents, and it frequently happened that the repairs exceeded the rent. These cottages, with other parish property, were sold about the time the New Poor Law came into operation.

In 1722, Joseph Rogers, Currier, bequeathed the sum of £600, to be laid out in the purchase of land, the yearly rents and profits thereof to be expended in educating and instructing such a number of poor people's children belonging to the parish of Winslow, as his trustees would find the same would answer. The property now consists of a house, outbuildings, and 23 acres of land, in the parishes of Great and Little Kimble. According to a return made to the Charity Commissioners in 1884, the net income of this charity, after deducting necessary expenses, was £42, with which sum twenty children were then educated in the Public Elementary Schools.

As education in all Public Elementary Schools is now, by law, entirely free, the proceeds of this charity are now applied towards the expenses of management of the Schools. It would appear to the relief and benefit of the subscribers rather than that of *poor people's children.*

It appears by the Parliamentary Returns of 1786, that money producing £2 8s. 0d. per annum, was given by a former Lord of the Manor, to the poor of Winslow, and was then vested in William Lowndes, Esq. This charity is now lost.

The Parliamentary Returns of 1827, state that two houses in Winslow, one occupied by J. Lomath, the other by S. Yeates, were built on leasehold land, the property of the Parish Officers. The ground on which the latter house stands, appears by a recital in an assignment of the lease of it, to have been let in 1700, by certain persons, with the consent of the Lord of the

Manor of "Winslow cum Membris," and of the principal parishioners of Winslow, for 200 years on a building lease. The draft indenture of assignment was produced to the Commissioners of Charities by Mr. Willis, who stated that there was a similar draft relating to the other house.

These two houses were situate in the Market Square; one being the present Post Office, the other *was* immediately adjoining, but has been recently demolished, the site being now occupied by the New Bank premises, the property having been sold by sanction of the Charity Commissioners, who describe the property as "The Church Houses," the part sold consisted of 111 square yards or thereabouts of land, the price for which it was sold being £220.

This land evidently at one time formed a portion of the Churchyard, evidence of which was found in excavating the ground for the new buildings.

William Packer of London, gave, in the year 1814, the sum of £100, in the three per cents, the interest to be distributed to the poor of Winslow in bread annually, on the Sunday after July 5th.

Mr. Edmund Cox of Winslow, [where he was buried Oct. 17th, 1820, aged 73 years], by his Will bequeathed the sum of £300, the interest thereof to be applied in the purchase of "good wheaten bread," to be *twice* every year distributed among all the necessitous poor for the time being residing in the parish of Winslow.

In 1843, Miss Bridget Yeates of Winslow, gave a house adjoining the Churchyard for use as an Infant School, and in 1843, her executors purchased the following three-per-cent annuities, £166 13s. 4d. for the use of the Infant School, £166 13s. 4d. for coals and wood for the poor, £166 13s. 4d. in aid of the Church Sunday School, and £50 to provide books for the said Sunday School, the dividends whereof to be applied annually.

Browne Willis mentions the following charities as being distributed in his time,—1730:—

Mr. Williams, 10s. 0d. per annum.

Mr. Griffin, 10s. 0d. per annum.

Mrs. Forde and Mr. Bishop, £2 10s. 0d. per annum.

Mrs. Wiliimet (?) 10s. 0d. per annum.

Joseph Rogers, Currier of this towne, left £600 for the purpose of educating poor boys.

Joane Forde, whose maiden name was Lowndes, gave a chalice and some small land to be distributed in Doles to the poor.

Mr. Thomas Lowndes, about the year 1620, gave a Communion Carpet.

There was formerly an old Hearse Cloth, which was in being till within these 20 years, in a circle about the middle of which this was written :—"Pray for the soul of John and Joane Gadbury."

"Here was an old Pulpit Cloth wrought about with abundance of Arms in escutcheons and lozenge-wise, which the Fyges formerly are said to have begg'd of the Fortescues."

In August, 1863, the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales established a scheme for the management and regulation of the following charities :—

"In the matter of the Charities called "Thomas Bishopp's Charity," "Joan Forde's Charity," otherwise "The Poor's Allotment," "William Packer's Charity," "Edmund Cox's Charity," and the "Church Houses and Church Land," all in the Parish of Winslow, in the County of Buckingham.

These several Charities were thus described in the scheme :—

THOMAS BISHOPP'S CHARITY.—An allotment of 1a. 1r. 35p. of land situate in "New Mill Field," in the parish of Winslow.

JOAN FORDE'S CHARITY, (otherwise the Poor's Allotment)—An allotment of 7a. 3r. 24p. of land also situate in New Mill Field, adjoining the last-mentioned allotment. Both of these pieces of land are sub-divided in small plots, which are now occupied by poor inhabitants of Winslow, free of rent.

WILLIAM PACKER'S CHARITY.—The sum of £100, three per cent annuities, vested in the names of William Selby Lowndes, Esq., Lancelot Wyatt, Esq., and Joseph Turner, Esq., Surgeon, all of Winslow, (all now deceased).

EDMUND COX'S CHARITY.—The sum of £276 5s. 1d., new three per cent annuities, standing in the name of the said Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, in trust for the said Charity.

THE CHURCH HOUSES AND CHURCH LAND.—Two houses in the Market Square, Winslow, and two allotments of 1r. 3p. and 1r. 23p. of land, both situate in "Old Mill Field" in Winslow, subject to a lease for the term of two hundred years, from the 29th September, A.D. 1700, at the yearly rent of (£2) two pounds. (This Church land, situate on the east side of the High Street, was sold some few years since).

As to Thomas Bishopp's Charity, Joan Forde's, otherwise The Poor's Allotment, William Packer's, and Edmund Cox's Charities.

The clear amount of the annual rents, profits and income of these Charities, after payment out of the same of all necessary expenses of management, shall be applied by the Trustees, subject to such rules and conditions as shall from time to time be prescribed by them, towards the support of a Clothing, Coal, or Penny Club or Penny Bank, or Sick Club, or enrolled Benefit Society, or some one or more of such institutions for the benefit

of industrious poor persons residing within the parish of Winslow, or in providing coals, fuel, food and clothing, or other necessaries, to be sold at reduced prices, or distributed gratuitously to, or amongst such poor persons as are resident in the said Parish.

As to the Charity called the Church Houses and Church Land.

The clear amount of the annual rents, profits and income of this Charity, after payment thereout of all necessary and proper outgoings and expenses of management, shall be applied by the Trustees, primarily in or towards the maintenance and repair of the fabric of the Parish Church of Winslow, inclusive of the Tower, but exclusive of the Chancel, and subject thereto, in or towards defraying the other expenses usually covered by a Church Rate; and if, in any year, the whole of such income be not exhausted in providing for the objects aforesaid, the residue shall be accumulated and invested by the Trustees, so as to form a fund for the extraordinary reparation or improvement of the said Church.

Any money arising from the sale of timber, or from any mines or minerals on the said Charity Estates, shall be treated as Capital and invested in the Government Funds in the name of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, in trust for the Charity entitled thereto.

In a Government Return of Endowed Charities, 1868, the gross total annual income arising from the Winslow Charities was stated to be £77 8s. 10d., of which sum £56 10s. 0d. was applied to education, £9 13s. 0d. for Church purposes, and £11 5s. 0d. was distributed in bread and articles in kind to the poor of Winslow at Christmas. The Poor's Land was said to consist of 0a. 1r. 29p.

Mrs. Elizabeth Miles, by her Will proved in 1872, gave the sum of £200, invested in Metropolitan 3½-per-cent Stock, now held by the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, the Dividends amounting to £7 per annum, being distributed to the poor of Winslow at the discretion of the Vicar.

David Thomas Willis, Esq., Solicitor, Winslow, who died 14th November, 1884, bequeathed the sum of £250 for the purchase of a new clock with chimes for the Church, and for re-hanging the bells.

The painted boards containing the names of Donors and particulars of their benefactions, formerly affixed to the west gallery in the Church, are now placed in the Yeates' School-room.

Parish Property.

Upon the passing of the present Poor Law Act, 1834, and the erection of the Union Workhouse, 1835, most, if not all, of the real property vested in the Overseers and Parish Officers of Winslow was sold by order of the Poor Law Commissioners—as we learn from Advertisements issued at the time, viz :—

"Extensive Freehold House and Premises, with 3 Cottages adjoining, at Winslow, Bucks, to be sold by auction by Dudley and Son, on Thursday, March 30th, 1837, in one Lot, by direction of the Board of Guardians of the Winslow Union, pursuant to the Order of the Poor Law Commissioners."

"All those extensive Freehold Premises, known as the "Old Workhouse" in Winslow, comprising a substantially brick-built and tiled House, containing 2 good parlours, hall, sitting room, 6 large bedrooms, pantry, kitchen and wash-house, large bake-house with excellent oven and brewing copper, capital dry arched cellars ; also a large Building used as school and store rooms, with 4 bedrooms over ; a newly-erected "Mill House" with convenient lofts, 40 feet by 16 feet, stabling for 8 horses, and covered gateway, surrounding three large yards, conveniently divided by brick walls ; a very productive walled Garden planted with fruit trees ; lead pump etc. Also adjoining are 3 Cottages, each containing sitting room, 2 bedrooms and cellar, all situated in the centre of the town of Winslow, etc."

"Cottages at Winslow, Bucks, to be sold by auction by Dudley & Son, at the Bell Inn, in Winslow, on Friday, the 27th October, 1837, by order of the Poor Law Commissioners, and of the Board of Guardians of the Winslow Union. 39 Cottages in 12 lots."

From these advertisements it appears that the Parish then owned forty-two cottages, all of which were fully occupied, the names of all the tenants being given. They seem to have been scattered all over the town, and were evidently of a humble character, nearly all of them being thatched. But few of these are now standing, the sites having become valuable for better buildings. The amount realised by the sale of the property was applied towards the expense of building the present Workhouse.

Winslow Enclosure (6th George III, 1766).

As we have mentioned—Shipton was enclosed under an Act passed in 1743, and the remainder of the parish in 1766.

The Commissioners for the last enclosure being John Lord of Drayton Parslow, Thomas Green of Whitchurch, Thomas Taylor of Swanbourne, and John Fairbrother of Helmdon, Northampton.

The principal Landholders at that time were William Lowndes, Rev. John Rawbone, Samuel Norman, Thomas Blake, John Budd, William Burrell, William Hobbs, John Turner, Benjamin Ingram, William Aldridge, Stephen Gibbs the elder, Thomas Tattam, Wm. Mayne, George Savage, Joseph Dudley, William Gibbs, Robert Gibbs, Ann Seaton, and others.

The open and common fields at that time contained 1,400 acres, or thereabouts, of which William Lowndes was seized of and entitled to 840 acres.

The Act recites: "That for time immemorial, certain lands lying in the said open and common fields, of the yearly value of four pounds and ten shillings, have been held and enjoyed by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor of the said Parish of Winslow for the time being, 'For the use of the Poor of the said Parish.'"

The Commissioners were directed to assign to the Rev. John Rawbone, and his successors, (Vicars of Winslow), one or more plot or plots of land of the yearly value of £31 6s. 0d., in lieu and satisfaction of, and full compensation for all tithes of wool and lamb, and all the other Vicarial or small tithes and other tithes, moduses, dues, duties and payments whatsoever arising out of the lands intended to be enclosed.

"The said Commissioners, or any three of them, shall, and they are hereby authorised and required to ascertain, set out, and allot unto, and for the use of the poor of the said parish of Winslow,—such parcel or quantity of the land or ground hereby intended to be divided and inclosed, as in the judgment of the said Commissioners shall, at the time of making such allotment, be of the yearly value of four pounds and ten shillings.

"And the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the time being, or the major part of them, shall receive and take the rents, issues and profits that shall from time to time arise therefrom, and shall dispose of and distribute the same unto and amongst such of the most necessitous, industrious, and honest poor of the parish of Winslow aforesaid, who shall not receive any weekly collection, or be provided for in the Workouse or Poor House of the said Parish, in such manner and in such shares and proportions, as they shall from time to time think fit."

"The said Commissioners shall, and are hereby authorised and required to set out, allot and appoint both publick and private roads or ways through and over the new Inclosures and Allotments, with the assizes and breadths thereof, so as such publick roads and highways (except bridle or foot ways, in case any such are set out), shall be, and remain, sixty feet broad between the ditches ; and such publick roads and highways shall at all times then after be repaired at the expense of the inhabitants of Winslow, in the same manner as the other roads and ways within the said Township were, or ought to have been repaired, before the passing of the Act."

The Act further provides that the written award of the said Commissioners should be inrolled with the Clerk of the Peace, for the County of Bucks, or in one of His Majesty's Courts of Record at Westminster, to the end that recourse may be had to the same by any person, for the perusal and inspection, whereof the sum of *one shilling* shall be paid, *and no more* ; and a copy thereof, or any part thereof obtained, for which no more shall be paid than twopence per sheet, each sheet to contain seventy-two words.

Under the award of the Commissioners, there was assigned to William Lowndes, Esq., in lieu of Great Tithes, 184a. or. 25p. in Demoram Field, and 55a. 1r. 18p. for loss of common rights.

There was also awarded to the Rev. John Rawbone, Vicar, in lieu of Tithe for open field land, certain old enclosures in "New Mill Field," containing 39a. 2r. 6p.

And as and for a compensation for all tithe of wool and lamb, and all other Vicarial or small tithes, he was allotted three lots or parcels of land, containing a total of 54a. 3r. 29p., from which three acres was afterwards deducted for fences.

Poor's Allotment. "And we do hereby ascertain, set out, and allot unto, and for the use of the poor of the said parish of Winslow, all that plot, piece, parcel, or quantity of the land or ground by the said Act intended to be divided and enclosed, hereinafter described, and which we do adjudge to be, at the time of our making the said allotment, of the yearly value of four pounds and ten shillings ; that is to say :—All that lot or parcel of land lying in "New Mill Field," containing 7a. 3r. 24p. ; bounded on the east by the land of William Lowndes, on the

north by the Buckingham Turnpike Road, on the south by the land of Ann Seaton, and on the west by the old enclosure of Addington. The fences to be for ever kept, maintained, and repaired at the expense of the Trustees of the poor of the said parish of Winslow.

The quantity of land enclosed at Winslow, under the Act of 1766, was 1,163 acres. The result of the Enclosure being an increase in cows, butter, and fat hogs, but sheep decreased, as did also all kinds of grain. By the Enclosure, the whole of the parish became tithe-free; no less than 278 acres having been awarded out of the lands of different owners, in lieu of great and small tithes, in addition to the land awarded for the same purpose under the Shipton Enclosure.

The Lord of the Manor also appears to have received no less than 55 acres for loss of *his* common rights,—whether the poor inhabitants had any right of common does not appear; however, they do not seem to have benefitted in any way by the enclosure; the piece of land awarded them in lieu of other land, possessed from time immemorial, being situate at the extreme verge of the parish, and this has since been deteriorated by the Parish Officers taking gravel out of the land without compensation.

Previous to the enclosure of the parish, the road now leading up from Tinkers End along the Cross Lane, was then carried on past a windmill, and hence to the corner of Great Horwood Lane; that spot being called "Parker's Grave," doubtless on account of some unhappy suicide of that name having been buried at the Cross Roads, in accordance with an ancient custom.

The short lane (then called "The Greyhound Lane"), now leading past the end of the residence of T. P. Willis, Esq., then formed a continuation of Addington Lane, and bearing off to the left formed the main Road to Little Horwood. There also appears to have been another road or driftway leading out of the Buckingham Road, somewhere near the present Station Road, passing the spot on which Magpie Farm now stands, and so into Little Horwood Lane near the ford, where it was joined by another lane leading direct from Shipton.

It is difficult to understand why this more direct road to Little Horwood was abolished, unless it ran unpleasantly near the north front of the Manor House, and annoyed the owner.

In John Speed's map of Buckinghamshire, 1611, that part of the parish which adjoins the Grandborough Brook is designated "Winslow Heath."

Winslow "Tradesmen's Tokens."

In consequence of the scarcity of copper money during the Commonwealth, and the reign of Charles II, many thousand varieties of "Tradesmen's Tokens" were put into local circulation, so that to quote an old writer,—"everie chandler, tapster, vintner, and other tradesman, made tokens of lead and brasse for halfpences."

In Buckinghamshire there are about 150 known varieties, of which the following issued at Winslow, are in the writer's possession :—

WILLIAM GILES, W.G.M.=OF WINSLOW, 1666.
JOHN FORREST, I.F.M., OF WINSLOW=HIS HALF-PENNY, 1666.
MATTHEW BISHOP × M.B.D.=IN WINSLOW.
THOMAS GODWIN, OF WINSLOW=HIS HALF-PENY.
THOMAS SMALLBONES=OF WINSLOW, T.S.A.

[This last named person was Churchwarden of Winslow in 1670, and his name is placed upon the third bell, cast in that year].

Occasional Notes.

The surname of Wyneslow is frequently to be met with in the early records of St. Alban's Abbey; and mention is made of a John Wynslowe of this parish as far back as A.D. 1349.

We cannot claim for Winslow the honour of being the birth-place of Edward Winslow, one of the Pilgrim Fathers, and nearly the first Governor of New England, A.D. 1633, 1644.

He is described as the son of Edward Winslow of Droitwich, in Worcestershire. Another of the little band of Nonconformist Pilgrims to the new world was Gilbert Winslow, probably a relative of the above.

There is no other parish of this name in England, but there is a small hamlet called Kingston-Winslow, in the parish of Ashbury, Berks.

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Scattered here and there among the pages of old books, newspapers, and Parish Records may occasionally be found some paragraph or entry bearing upon the past history of our parish, such as the following.—In the Journals of the House of Commons, Vol. I, page 488, mention is made of an Act for ascertaining fines of Copyholds in the Manor of Winslow, according to a Decree in Chancery, made Nov. 23rd, 1613.

In the Parish Accounts of Clifton Reynes, Bucks, there are entries of Briefs for Winslow in 1671, and again in 1697, but it is not stated what particular calamity had occurred there at those times.

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In 1715, the Standard of Rebellion was raised in Scotland under the Pretender, and the English Government engaged a large number of Dutch soldiers as auxilaries, to aid in suppressing the rebellion. The winter of that year was very severe, so that the Thames was frozen over. In Buckinghamshire there was an enormously deep snow, so that all traffic upon the roads was suspended. This frost was long remembered at Winslow as the "Dutchman's Frost," for it happened that at this time seven hundred of these troops being on the march towards the north, upon arriving at Winslow, found it impossible to proceed any further on their journey, and consequently they were quartered in every house in the town without exception, until such time as the snow was dug away out of the roads, sufficiently for them to resume their march.

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The Pillory. There was an exhibition of a man in the pillory at Winslow, in the year 1734, when Mr. Francis Woodcock, the gaoler at Aylesbury, includes in his disbursements for that year—"For conveying John Short to Winslow to stand in ye pillory, 10s. od."

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In the Imperial Magazine for 1760, under date of Friday, Feb. 15th, it is stated—"This night a most terrable storm happened that did prodigious damage upon sea and land. Near Winslow, Bucks, five windmills were burnt to the ground, occasioned by the high wind which gave them such quick motion that their axletrees took fire."

From an old map of Winslow, it would appear that one of the windmills so destroyed was situate at a spot still known as Mill Knob, in "New Mill Field."

There is also an entry in the old Manor Rolls under date of October 3rd. 1762, showing there had been—"Taken for an Harriot on the death of Mr. George Savage, ye remains of a windmill," valued by Mr. King, carpenter, at five pounds. Mention also is frequently made of *Old Mill Field.*

In the award of the Commissioners at the time of the Parish Enclosure, 1767, a Mr. George Savage is mentioned as the owner of a garden called the "Mill Garden," containing 2½ acres, formerly belonging to the Mill House at Winslow.

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Great Fire at Winslow. "August 14th, 1775. A suden fire broke out at Winslow at Mr. Footmans, "ye 3 Pidgeons," Cow Street, which consumed all ye back buildings of ye said Footman, ye house and buildings of Benjamin Ingram, ye house and

buildings of ye widow Maidon, and part of ye buildings of Thomas Newman's at "ye Greyhound," together with Mrs. Varney's."

By a petition sent to the Sun Fire Office in August, 1781, it appears that even at that day Winslow possessed a couple of Fire Engines; but these were clumsy machines with solid wooden wheels, and when required at any distance, had to be conveyed to the spot in a waggon; yet they seem to have done some good service in their time. About the year 1800 a new engine was obtained, which continued in use for full seventy years, during most of which time it found a safe shelter within the porch of the Parish Church.

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Browne Willis mentions that in his time (about 1712), the parish of Winslow contained 225 families, (whereof in Shipton are 19), and of souls about 1,100. He also gives the number of acres as 2,075. The present computation being 1,920.

***

The ancient course of the road from Aylesbury to Buckingham left Hardwick, Whitchurch, and Winslow on the right, passing through East Claydon and between Steeple Claydon and Padbury, as appears by "Ogilby's Roads of England and Wales," published in 1736.

In a "Description of England & Wales," 1769, mention is made of the road from Aylesbury to Buckingham as proceeding by Hogshaw; and states that Winslow was situate about two miles to the right, out of the direct road from Aylesbury to Buckingham.

***

In an old Account Book kept by one of the Burnham family of Winslow, and relating to their household matters, we find occasional entries that throw some light upon the domestic affairs of the people at that time.—"On the 12th June, 1739: paid for carriage of 128 bushel of coal from Bedford [to Winslow] £3. Paid Richard Teagle for 32 weeks work, from Lady-day to Hollontide [All Saint's Day], at 5/- a week, £8. Paid for 4 hundred of hay, 6/-. One peck of malt, 7½d. October 26th, 1751, paid Budd for carrig of 80 bushel of coal—full measure—from Bedford, £2 5s. 0d."

***

Although the purchasing power of money was greater two hundred years ago than at present, yet the number of destitute poor in Winslow must have been very few, and the demands of the Rate Collector correspondingly small, as the following extracts from the Overseers of that time will show.—

"Receipts and Disbursements of the Overseers of the parish of Winslow for the year 1679.—Receipts, £45 4s. 4d.; Disburst, £44 6s. 0d.

"Receipts and Disbursements of Peter Lowndes and Robert Gibbs, Overseers of the poor for the parish of Winslow for the year 1703.—Received, £93 14s. 01d.; Disburst, £95 15s. 10¼d.

"Receipts and Disbursements of Benjamin Dudley and William Elliott, Overseers of the poor for the parish of Winslow for the year 1707—Recd. £95 12s. 8½d; Disburst, £88 16s. 2½d."

But dark days were in store for the coming generations, for we note that just previous to the introduction of the New Poor Law, (1835), the Poor Rates at Winslow had increased to seventeen shillings in the pound, without including the Highway and Church Rates; and the Overseer, when he paid the poor, had a pair of loaded pistols lying by his side ready to protect the cash and himself.

This was in "the good old days" of our grandfathers. In contrast to the above we find the total rates of all kinds for the same parish for the year 1893-4 were—upon houses 1s.10½d., and land 1s.4½d. in the pound.

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From an old Manuscript Diary kept in 1789 by Paul Parkins, a Land Surveyor at Winslow, we learn something of the manner in which Sunday was spent, even by persons of respectable position in that day. On Sunday, July 1st, he went to Wingrave Feast. July 8th, went to Winslow Church in the morning, and to Grandborough Feast in the afternoon, saw Moses Gates and J. Cox fight. Sunday, August 12th, went to church twice, and heard Mr. Langstone preach,—then went to Great Horwood Feast. Sunday, September 24th,—set my rooms to rights in the morning, and went to Padbury Feast in the afternoon. Oct. 28th,—went to church; the Yeomanry and Cavalry went to church twice to-day in their uniforms. Sunday, November 4th,—started Mr. Read's team off to Blisworth to fetch a load of coal—it returned next day—(this entry shows one of the domestic inconveniences of that time; no coal at Winslow without a long and tedious cross-country journey into Northamptonshire to fetch it). On Sunday, Nov. 11th, he writes—"I did not go to church because I was airing my new bed." Parkins also mentions keeping St. Clement and St. Andrew's days, but it seems that they were devoted to drinking bouts and festivities among his friends, for drinking habits and customs seem to have been pretty general in those days, the number of Inns in the town having been greater than at present.

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The ponderous old Black Letter Bible of 1611, with its stout oaken lids and brass clasps—once probably chained in Winslow Church,—has passed into private hands; it bears the inscription, "Winslow, December vii, Anno Dom. MDCXCIX. New bovnd by M. Dagnall, of Aylesbvry, Joh. Henly, Jos. Glenister, Joh. Seaton, Chvrch Wardens of Winslow in Com., Bucks."

In the Archæological Journal, Vol. 49, page 333, it is stated "At Winslow Church some interesting mural paintings were laid bare in 1884, and are still preserved." By the side of the north doorway are portions of the well-known subject of St. Christopher, the upper part, with the Infant Saviour on the shoulder of the Saint, remaining in a fair state of preservation. Traces of other subjects which have not yet been explored, are visible through the whitewash over and to the west of the doorway. Between the two eastern windows of the north aisle is the martyrdom of St. Thomas of Canterbury. Tablets have been let into the wall, materially interfering with both these paintings, which appear to date from about the middle of the 14th century.

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Letter from the Rev. John Croft, Vicar of Winslow and Grandborough, to the Archdeacon of St. Albans, or his Proctor—

"S'r,—by this you'l finde enclosed two Invent'rys; you are desired to dispatch them and let the widows have their instruments from the Court. Pray be so kind, so just, as to summon Thorp of Grandborough, whom we presented at our last visita'on held at Winslow, last Wednesd., in Easter week, for refusing to pay his levy to the Ch. Warden's rate; from this long forbeareance the Raskall braggs of impunity and y't now he has conquered the whole town and Court, and, indeed, if he pass off thus, others for good husbandry may follow his example, and so we may feare a generall dispute in the whole parish, whom, he twitters, are eager to have him punisht as yet; pray therefore let it be done, and that speedily, for the Rogue, fearing the worst, is leaving Grenb— next Lady Day. By a particular messenger you may send both the widow's instrum'ts and a Process for Thorp, which may convince the rest of the inhabitants that the power of the Court is not enervated, nor our resentments so tame but yt our Church can teach a contumacious Villaine manners.

Sr, your Humb. Servt.,

Nov. 16, 1711. J. Croft."

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In a previous page of this work we have given an Inventory of the Articles etc. belonging to Winslow Church in 1757. Since that was in type, the following list, of an earlier date, has been discovered among the Archives of the Archdeaconry of St. Albans.

"A true Note or Bill indented of all the Goods and Utensils belonging to the Church at Winslow, made the xxvi day of Aprill, Anno Dmi, 1628.

"Imprimis—a Com'union table decently rayled in. Item: a faire Communion cloath, an other olde cloath of sattin, with silke frindge, an other linnen cloath and a napkin. Item: a communion cupp of silver with a cover, one pewter flagon. Item: one chest with three locks, a large bible, a booke of

com'on praier, Jewell's workes, a booke of Homilies and the booke of Canons. Item : a cloath, and a cushion for the pullpitt. Item : a ring of five tunable bells with a sance bell, and a clocke, a beere, and a herse cloath of sattine, a surplisse, a faire Register Booke.

"Rob. Maynwaring, Vic. ; Peter Fyge, Daniell Sayre, William Norman, Churchwardens."

In connection with the name of Daniell Sayre, one of the Churchwardens mentioned, we may notice that in pulling down an ancient house, 'The Ship' in Horn Street in 1884, a gravestone was found, used as a doorstep, bearing this inscription :—

"Here lyeth the body of Daniell Seayre, &
Mary, his wife—both in one grave.
She departed this life May ye 9th, 16—, aged 69.
The world is nothing, Heaven is all ;
Death did not hurt me by my fall.
Tho' Earth be turned to Earth, I have
A hopeful rest, even in the grave."

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George Lipscomb, M.D,, in his "History of Bucks, 1847, states—"The parish of Winslow is bounded on the north by Addington and Great Horwood, and Little Horwood parishes, on the south by Granborough, and on the west by East Claydon and Addington.

"The south side of the parish is partly bounded by a brook which runs from the north-east, and being joined by smaller streams, bends its course between Winslow and Granborough, running towards the west, and there becomes the boundary of the Claydons, and ultimately joins the river Ouse.

"The Town of Winslow stands on an eminence—part of a ridge of hills sufficiently high to render the buildings conspicuous at a great distance towards the S.E. and S.W.

"The direct turnpike road from London to Buckingham passes through Winslow, which is situate between the 50th and 51st milestones. Near the S.E. angle of the parish is a small bridge over the stream before mentioned, at which the road makes an acute flexure before it ascends the hill, on which stands the hamlet of Shipton—an appendage to Winslow, very pleasantly situated—and which the road passes in its approach to the town.

"The Market-place,—a clean, neat, but irregularly built square in the middle of the town—is disgraced by an old timber and plaster Market-house ; and near its south-east corner stands the only house of public entertainment and accommodation, which, under the sign of the Bell, now claims the title of an Inn.

"A long bending irregular street, called Horn Street, (probably from its shape), passing from this spot, forms the communication between Winslow, the Claydons, Granborough, and the north-western parts of the County ; and the Main, or High Street, forms part of the direct road to Buckingham."

Lipscomb also gives us the following particulars respecting the acreage and population of Winslow, now brought up to date, "Acres, 1920. Land Tax as assessed in 1798, £223 17s. 0d. Annual value of Real Property in 1815, £4,681, and in 1843, £5,447 8s. 4d.

"No. of Inhabited Houses in 1841, 275; Uninhabited, 4; Building, 5, Population, 1333. Shipton Population, 101; Inhabited Houses, 19." In 1891, Inhabited Houses, 361.

"In 1801 the population of the entire parish was 1101; in 1811, 1222; in 1821, 1222; 1831, 1290; 1841, 1333; 1851, 1805, (exclusive of Workhouse); 1861, 1890; 1871, 1826 (including Workhouse); 1881, 1663; 1891, 1702." In the latter year there were 52 births and 37 deaths in the parish.

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The Rev. St. John Priest, in his work entitled "a General View of Agriculture in Buckinghamshire," dated 1810, gives us some little insight into the condition of Winslow and Neighbourhood at that time. He says:—"The bye roads of this County are extremely bad, some of them dangerous and cautiously to be used; they have ruts so deep, that when the wheels of the chaise fall into them, it is with the greatest danger an attempt can be made to draw them out, nay, instances may be produced, where, if such an attempt is made, the horse and chaise must inevitably fall into bogs. The difficulty in finding the way from Fenny Stratford to Whaddon was such, that without a guide I could not have surmounted it. From Winslow to Wing there was no less danger, and had it not been now and then for a colony of gipsies, I might have been obliged in more than one instance to have taken refuge in a milking house for a night's lodging." From the same work we gather that the extent of Winslow with Shipton at that date was estimated at 719 acres of meadow land, 1,459 of pasture, 300 arable,—total 2,478 acres, that there was 12 farm houses and 250 cottages, the farms varying in size from 20 to 500 acres. The Poor rates at Winslow at this period were seven shillings in the £, having vastly increased of late years.

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Having brought our narrative down to a comparatively recent period, we can only briefly note the events and changes of the last seventy years. As we have shown, at the commencement of the present century, the township was but small, the population being only 1101.

> " 'Twas town, yet country too—you felt the warmth
> Of clustering houses in the wintry time.
> Supped with a friend, and went by lantern home;
> Yet from your chamber window you could hear
> The tiny bleat of new-yeaned lambs, or see
> The children bend beside the hedgerow banks
> To pluck the primroses—-—"

Commencing with the Hamlet of Shipton,—there were formerly at least half-a-dozen more houses than at present, standing along the brow of the hill, one of which seems to have been a most ancient edifice with its stone mullioned windows. It being the old coaching days, there was of course a roadside Public-house; the turnpike road then ran immediately in front of the Farm-house now held by Mr. Monk, but occupied as labourer's cottages. A short distance along the Swanbourne road, upon the right hand side stood an old-fashioned farmhouse and buildings that were subsequently used as a pest-house, or small pox hospital.

Coming down Sheep Street, in that ancient lane with the peculiar name of "Hobhouchin," stood several more cottages than at present. In the field immediately opposite the Hall gates, was a very antique house and blacksmith's shop, said to have been occupied by the family of Jackman for several generations. In this (Sheep) Street were held from time immemorial the large annual Sheep Fairs,—hence probably its name. Between the Hall and the house long occupied by Mr. King, Gamekeeper, was a lane leading round to the tan-yards, the back way to the old "Greyhound Inn," and so out into the Buckingham Road.

In the Market Square was the Bull Ring, the Whipping Post, and the Stocks; also an ugly old timber and plaster Market House standing upon pillars, much frequented by travelling tinkers and gentry of that stamp; this was taken down about 1840. Around the Square many of the houses still retained their overhanging fronts, being supported by massive oak turned pillars. Attention may be called to the fine specimens of wrought iron work *yet* to be found on the fronts of the "George" Hotel and the draper's shop, both in the square; this is traditionally said to have been brought from old Salden House.

Among the ancient houses remaining may be mentioned the "Old Crown" Inn, and the house occupied by Mr. Grace, blacksmith, both on the Market Square, and the old "Windmill" Inn in the High Street.

At the back of the Bell Hotel is a block of buildings now used as a malthouse, stables, etc. These at one time formed the Parish Workhouse, Straw Plaiting School for boys, and a Mill-house in which the unemployed were set to work grinding corn by hand; here also was a lock-up for misdemeanants. In the Alley stood an ancient Inn called "The George"—the present "George" being then known as the "George and Horse Shoe."

Turning round into Great Horn Street, at the corner where the Engine house now stands, was a large pond in which the legs of the coach horses were washed; this was called "Pillars Ditch,"—i.e. the "Pillory Ditch" in this open space was once the Round House or Lock-up.

At the bottom of "The Walk," then called "Hanging Stile"

stood two or three cottages, latterly known as the "Pest-houses."

In Horn Street several houses have been pulled down of late years, but those now standing near the Crooked Billet, bearing the initials T.W.M. 1702, and another near the Girls' School, dated 1726, G.B., appear unaltered.

From the Market Place up to the Windmill Inn, the street bore the name of "Cow Street," here was held as now, the Cattle Market, beyond this the town proper did not extend. The houses now occupied by Mr. Coxill and Mr. Sear, senr., were the last on that side of the way; on the right, adjoining the present house of Mr. Benbow, stood the old Parish Poorhouse, and dotted here and there were a few old thatched cottages belonging to the parish, the last one standing somewhere on the site of the present Grocery Stores; beyond this was nothing but fields, the present Workhouse not being erected until 1836.

As a means of communication with the outer world, the coaches kept the town pretty lively, "The Regulator" started from the "Bell" Inn, for London, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, returning on alternate days. Two other coaches called the "Old Union," running between Banbury and London, also passed through the town daily. There were also three or four big lumbering Stage Waggons, drawn by four horses, one of which made its head quarters in the large building in "Parsons Close."

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Amid all the changes of time, the custom of ringing the "Curfew Bell" at 8 p.m. (during the winter months), still survives. The Angelus, or Gabriel Bell, originally rung to announce the breaking of the dawn, may yet be heard each morning; "The Shriving" or Pancake Bell is also rung on each recurring Shrove Tuesday; although its original object of summoning the people to Church to confess their sins preparatory to Lent, is nearly forgotten. These still form a link, binding the present with the past.

Conclusion.

"Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations."
Deuteronomy, 32 chap., 7th verse.

And now, by way of conclusion, let us briefly recall some of the events and incidents connected with these many centuries of Winslow Life, by looking back to those remote times, and so tracing the gradual progress of our little town since the days when the Ancient Britons hunted in the woods at Horewode, or fished in the muddy Ouse at Thornborough,—or "Torneberge" as it was called in olden days. We have seen how the mighty Romans were settled around us with their fortified camps upon

the heights just about us,—of which the remains of four may yet be traced in the adjoining parishes of Horewode, where cinerary urns, together with coins and other relics, have occasionally been brought to light. Then the sturdy Saxons, whom we are proud to call our forefathers, and progenitors, with all their Thanes and Yeomen, cultivating the land in peace, and in the earlier days, enjoying a freedom, aye, and a purity of religion which was not to be found in England for many hundreds of years afterwards. These people were doubtless the founders of our little town of "Wineslai," and Dene Hill has been the scene of many stirring incidents (with its Mercian Palace and Court), that we would gladly recall to mind. Then the Danes, overrunning our neighbourhood and scattering on every hand ruin and destruction by fire and sword. Next the Normans, harsh and overbearing, filling the land with their castles,—those strongholds of violence—of which the nearest was the huge one at Whitchurch. And as we have shown, these Norman Abbots and Lords ruled the people under them with an iron hand, so that at the time of the Domesday Survey, the whole of the inhabitants of Winslow appear to have been serfs or slaves; not a single freeman being mentioned, except the Lord of the Manor, in that account; and even on our very borders, in the adjoining parish of Addington, there is a spot still known as the Gallows Field, where the De Molyns—ancient lords of that place—exercised their so-called privilege of executing offenders within their Manor.

Then we have watched the dawning of a brighter day, when the people arose as a body and asserted their freedom, and the gradual shaking off of the power of Abbot and Priest, until anon, we see the downfall of the Abbeys, and the rule of the Abbot ceases over Winslow. Again we have the fierce struggle between the people and the State, during the reign of Charles I, in which the men of Buckinghamshire took such a prominent part, and Winslow was often filled with armed men.

Next the Restoration of Charles II, with his vaunted "liberty of conscience," under which the worshippers in the little Baptist Meeting-house in Winslow, vainly trusting to the royal proclamation, found to their cost that liberty of conscience was not for them, for their service was rudely and brutally interrupted and their minister dragged off to prison, followed by exposure in the pillory in our own Market Square; now we can worship under our own vine and fig tree, none daring to make us afraid.

Is it not interesting to trace the domestic customs of our forefathers, their fastings and feastings, their joys and sorrows; how their marriages were proclaimed in the Market Square on a market day; and the dead were buried in woollen according to law. How the old Stage Coaches, which once made our town so lively, have had their day and ceased to be; then to watch the

gradual development of the place; to see old Shipton, which was once an important part of the parish, slowly dwindle and decay, its ancient houses disappearing one by one; while on the other side of the Church a new part of the town springs up along the Buckingham Road; then that mighty instrument of change—the Railway—makes its appearance, and the Station Road is formed. Thus it is with everything, change and decay, the old ever giving place to the new.—

Thus times and customs, men and manners change,—
So institutions flourish and decay;
The painted Celt and Pict no longer range
The forest wild; the Romans! where are they?
Their monarchs, crowns, and thrones have passed away.

The Norman iron rule has ceas'd: the helm
Is held no longer by a tyrant's hand;
Abbot and Monk no longer shake the realm,
Or stir up strife and bloodshed in the land
By crafty plot, or arrogant command.

Each race has served its turn, and played its part
For good or ill; then let us see that we
By manly deed, by steadfastness of heart,
Strive for the truth,—and by the truth made free,
Leave to our sons a fuller liberty.

Now our task is finished, and if we have preserved any of these facts and incidents from oblivion, or have caused a deeper interest in this our ancient town,—once "The King's Village in Demesne"—we shall not have laboured in vain.

ASHENDON
AYLESBURY HUNDRED
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
HERTFORDSHIRE
BURNHAM HUNDRED
Hardwick
Weedon
Cheddington
Marsworth
Pitstone
Drayton Beauchamp
Tyrrells House
Tygers End
Oakers Grove
Choulsbury
Lodge
Boundary of County
of Hundred
Roads
Rivers
Canals
Railway
Scale of Miles
0 1 2 3 4 5 6

BUCKINGHAM HUNDRED
NEWPORT HUNDRED
WHADDON
CHACE
Whaddon
Nash
Westbury F.
East Grn.
Cold Harbour F.
Hall
Spenlow
Moat
Howe Park
Cow Hill F.
Barn Hill F.
Cadsdon
Tattenhoe
Nicholas F.
G. Horwood
Common
Singleborough
Salden F.
Singleborough Hall
Rock
Wood End
Crab Tree
Lt. Horwood
G. Horwood
Fenley
Hadley
Wattle & Dab F.
Hollow Hole
Rect.
Salden G. Ho.
Drayton Field F.
White House F.
Spring Bro. F.
Dorcas F.
Moco F.
Murley
Drayton Parslow
Stoke Road
Red Hill F.
Bove Mead F.
Tythe F.
Dark Hollenden
Dodley Hill F.
Swanbourne
Pot Ash
Parsc.
WINSLOW
Wyatts Fm.
Shipton
Cold Harbour
Turkey F.
Manor Ho.
Bridge F.
Bridge
North End
Up. Hollenden
Soulbury
Broad Oak F.
Stewkley Dean
Stewkley
Parsc.
Tythe F.
Black Lane F.
Watnscoat F.
Horston
Oakham F.
Rectory
Rock Lane F.
Buckslow F.
Lidcote F.
South End
Manor F.
Ho.
Maynes Hill
Dunton
Green
Warren F.
Pleasant F.
Burcote
Harrell Hill
Hunkers Hole F.
Cotslow F.
Lutsworth
Grange F.
Orchard F.
Cherry
Pammy Mere
Grove F.
Grove
Spouts
Brayenham
Ho.
Ladle F.
Broad Oak F.
Elms Coat F.
Parsc.
Fallow F.
Aylesade
Lascombe House
Gorsea
Surcote
Lime Kilns
Burcote
Highway
SUD

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